

PUBLIC HEALTH HEARING OFFICE

Joel Leyden
c/o Fernwood Rest Home
400 Torrington Road
Litchfield, CT 06759

Via Email: leydendigital@gmail.com
First Class & Certified Mail: 7005 0390 0001 3509 0451

Jennifer Miller, Administrator
Fernwood Rest Home
400 Torrington Road
Litchfield, CT 06759

Via Email: officemanager@fernwoodrch.com
First Class & Certified Mail: 7005 0390 0001 3509 0468

RE: Docket No: 20260408; Leyden, Joel v. Fernwood Rest Home

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to an appeal and request for hearing received by the Department of Public Health on **August 3, 2026**, the Department will hold a hearing pursuant to § 19a-535a of the Connecticut General Statutes on:

Monday, August 10, 2026, at 10:00 AM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/278080939050449?p=dZth1T5io3Iaf8T4lQ>

Meeting ID: 278 080 939 050 449

Passcode: pR7pS2X3

Dial in by phone

[+1 860-840-2075](tel:+18608402075).,509442770# United States, Hartford

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 509 442 770#

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes and §§ 19a-9-1, *et seq.*, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether the discharge of Joel Leyden is being effected in accordance with statute. The hearing will be conducted by **Stacy Schulman, Esq.**, who is hereby appointed as Hearing Officer, and who shall rule on all motions, determine findings of fact and conclusions of law, and issue an Order.

The licensee shall provide the resident with a copy of this Notice of Hearing on the date it is received by the licensee and shall notify the Public Health Hearing Office that the resident received this Notice of Hearing. The licensee's notification to the Public Health Hearing Office shall be made on a date prior to the hearing date, shall be sent via email to phho.dph@ct.gov, and shall include the date the resident received the Notice of Hearing.

The licensee will assist the resident in connecting to the remote hearing.

General Hearing Information

Each party may be represented by an attorney and may, in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 4-177c and 4-178, present evidence and argument on all issues involved and conduct cross-examination. It is the parties' obligation to call any person they desire as a witness or to offer any documentary evidence they wish to be considered.

Business entities must be represented by an attorney. If a business entity is not represented by an attorney at the hearing, the persons who attend the hearing from the entity may only testify as witnesses and may not make legal arguments, cross examine witnesses, or in any way engage in the practice of law.

If you are not a legal entity, you may appear *pro se* (i.e. on your own behalf) or you may opt to have counsel represent you at the hearing. Any counsel appearing on behalf of a party must file an appearance with this office.

The licensee shall prove by a preponderance of the evidence that it has complied with the provisions of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-535a including but not limited to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-535a(c) pertaining to the submission of a discharge plan to the resident and to the Commissioner. Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-535a(d)(2), any involuntary discharge of the patient shall be stayed, pending the final decision of the Department in this matter.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this **4th** day of **August, 2026**.



Elizabeth Bannon, Deputy Legal Director

Cc. Stacy Schulman, Hearing Officer
Lorraine Cullen, Branch Chief, HQS
Mairead Painter, Long Term Care Ombudsperson
Tasha Erskine-Jackson, Regional Ombudsperson

Notice for Submissions

On or before **August 7, 2026**, you must provide the following by electronic mail response to the hearing office at phho.dph@ct.gov:

1. **Electronically Pre-filed Exhibits**: Exhibits should be pre-marked for identification (i.e., Department exhibit 1, Respondent exhibit A), page numbered, **and properly redacted for any personally identifiable information**. All exhibits also must be sent to the opposing party or counsel. **Parties should stipulate to any exhibits and facts not in dispute and provide any objections to proposed exhibits.**
2. **Witness List**: Identify any persons expected to be called to testify. Be sure to notify your witnesses that they will be required to remain available and in attendance for the full duration of the hearing. (This will eliminate the difficulty of trying to reach witnesses again for additional examination later in the hearing.) Witness lists must be sent to the opposing party or counsel.
3. **Email Mail Addresses**: All e-mail addresses for parties, counsel, and witnesses must be current and able to receive all notices relating to this matter.
4. **Notice of Confidential Documents**: Identify whether any confidential documents or testimony submitted, which may contain personal protected information or other confidential information, and if so, what that information may be (treatment records, patient records, therapy reports). Parties or counsel should identify any witnesses listed in response to #2 above who may provide testimony relating to protected information.
5. **Interpreter**: A statement whether an interpreter will be needed for the proceeding.

This is a formal public hearing. It will be video recorded and posted on the DPH website for public viewing. All hearing participants should appear on video in proper attire, in proper surroundings, and remove any potential distractions.

Should you have any questions, please contact the hearing office at phho.dph@ct.gov.