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### **INFORMATIONAL LETTER**

DATE: June 1, 2020

TO: Residential or Assisted Living Facilities (RALF)

FROM: Nate Elkins, Supervisor, Fire Life Safety Program

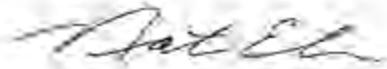
SUBJECT: Painted Murals in Memory Care Units

1. The purpose of this memo is to inform facilities on the acceptable use of painted murals on egress doors in Memory Care Units only.
2. The intent is to allow painted murals on egress doors in Memory Care Units only. During strenuous research on cognitive impairment has shown that disguising the door can help create a more calming environment and reduce the chance for elopement. After this research and many other researched subjects on Memory Care, Dementia, and Alzheimer's, disguising the doors can also contribute to maintaining a resident's mobility and choice to move about safely and independently.
3. Doors are permitted to be locked and shall be permitted to have painted murals on the egress side of the doors for the security or protection of residents in Memory Care, Dementia, and Alzheimer's units only, provided all the following conditions are met:
  - The murals on doors must be painted
  - Mirrors or similar reflecting materials shall not be used on means of egress doors.
  - Means of egress doors shall not be concealed by curtains, drapes, decorations or similar materials
  - Staff can readily unlock the doors at all times
  - The door-releasing hardware, where provided, is readily accessible for staff use.
  - Door leaves and windows are permitted to be covered by the murals. (Door rating stickers, Door hardware and door-releasing hardware shall not be painted.)
  - The murals do not impair the operation of the doors.

- The location and operation of doors disguised with murals are identified in the fire safety plan and are included in staff training.
- Along with the above requirements, any special locking arrangements installed on these types of doors must still be met. (Delayed Egress, Controlled Access)
- Exit signs and emergency lighting must be in place as required

4. If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact this office. Also, refer to frequently asked questions (FAQ) that are posted effective July 1, 2020 on the Assisted Living and the Facility Fire Safety and Construction websites.

Sincerely,



Nate Elkins,  
Supervisor, Fire Life Safety Program  
Division of Licensing & Certification

(2009) Alzheimer's Association