

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of State Fire Marshal, Engineering Division**

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RE: Appeal of the September 30, )  
2019 Notice of Violation and ) NCDOI DECISION  
issued by Davidson County Fire )  
Marshal's Office.

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In accordance with GS 153A-361, Dylan King has appealed the Notice of Violation from the Davidson County Fire Marshal's Office regarding a code violation discovered during regular fire inspections at the building located at 9420 N NC Highway 150 in Clemmons, NC 27012.

GS 153A-361 allows general appeals from any order, decision, or determination by a member of a local inspection department pertaining to the State Building Code or other State laws to the NC Department of Insurance, Office of State Fire Marshal, Engineering Division.

**PARTIES**

Appellant: Dylan King  
9420 N NC Highway 150  
Clemmons, NC 27012

Appellee: Davidson County Fire Marshal's Office  
935 North Main Street  
Lexington, NC 27272

**BACKGROUND**

The Davidson County Fire Marshal's Office conducts annual inspections to ensure that no code violations are present in buildings used by the public. On Monday September 30, 2019, a code violation was found that the entire door leading from one building was wrapped in a material that gave the door the appearance of being a bookcase. Appellee issued a Notice of Violation on September 30, 2019, which states that the material would have to be removed from the door.

**ISSUE RAISED IN APPEAL**

The following issue is raised in Appellants' appeal:

"...The sticker/wrap on the doors do not interfere with the operations of the doors, nor does it confuse individuals who do not have dementia that it is in face a door. The concern from the fire marshal is that if a fire were to occur, that the resident's may not know it's a door because of the sticker/wrap. My response to that is my team will be assisting the resident's out of the

community if there is a fire due to their diagnosis of dementia. These doors in question release from the mag lock system when the fire alarm is activated. My team, and family member's, are fully aware that these doors are in fact doors even though the sticker/wrap is on the doors. If a fire occurs in memory care, there are 2 other exit doors that would allow the memory care residents to exit even if they are confused about these doors with the sticker/wrap."

### FINDINGS

Based on information submitted by the appellant, the following findings are made:

1. The 2018 NC Fire Code (NCFC), Section 1031.6 states the following:

**"Furnishings & Decoration shall not obstruct exits.** Means of egress doors shall be maintained in such a manner as to be distinguishable from the adjacent construction and finishes such that the doors are easily recognizable as doors."

### CONCLUSIONS

Based on the forgoing findings of fact, the following conclusions are made:

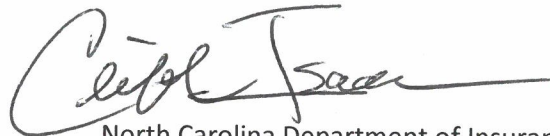
Section 1031.6 is very clear about exits being distinguishable. There are no exceptions provided in the NCFC for this requirement. It is important that all egress doors be clearly visible in an emergency. Past events have shown that even persons familiar with a building can become disoriented in emergency situations. Time lost searching for an egress door may be the difference in safely egressing a building and not. For this reason, all egress doors are required to be easily distinguishable.

### APPEAL DECISION

Based on the above findings and conclusions:

Pursuant to GS 150-361 the appellee is correct in using a Notice of Violation and require the Appellant to remove the sticker/wrap from the exit doors so that the doors can be distinguishable per the Fire Code.

This 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019.



North Carolina Department of Insurance

### FURTHER APPEAL RIGHTS

You have the right to appeal this decision to the NC Building Code Council. Please refer to GS 143-141 and the NC Administrative Code and Policies, Section 202.9.2 for further appeal rights. You have 30 days in which to appeal this decision.

Cc: Eric W. Barker, Davidson County Fire Marshal's Office