
From: Ryan Powers <rpowerz115@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR100-2025 fee on home detention costs should reflect liability of negligent companies.
Attachments: Ryan Powers - Receipt of Complaint-3.13.2025.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Councilmembers,

I've noticed that the county has legislation setting the price for home detention monitoring (CR100-2025). As of today, I am not sure if Howard County still uses Advantage Sentencing Alternative Systems, Inc for home detention monitoring. However, I believe fees should be increased to account for monitoring company violations/negligence. I don't want to penalize people in the criminal justice system; I want to incentivize judges to pick home detention monitoring companies that do not have long histories of violations.

Based on Sun reporting, this company's negligence almost certainly contributed to the alleged murders of two HCPSS students (Michael Robertson and Blake McCray) by Emmetson Zeah. Moreover, it appears this company has been investigated before for not following appropriate standards. ([Columbia mall shooting: Records reveal home monitoring flaws](#)).

Together with a few other community members, I filed a complaint with the Commission on Correctional Standards and copied my council member, County Executive Ball, and Director of Constituent Services Paul Thompson. Please see below for the complaint and response. I believe that residents are lucky someone from the Maryland judiciary decided to also file a complaint. Delegate Chao Wu is also quoted in the Sun article: "I am really not happy with how DPSCS is kicking the ball around," Wu said. "If something is wrong, they need to address [it] immediately. We need to hold ASAP accountable. Otherwise, more people will get hurt or killed."

Accountability comes in many forms. I am asking the County Council to make a change in this seemingly innocuous legislation so that our system starts using more responsible companies.

Thank you,

Ryan Powers
Glenwood, MD

Complaint
" March 7th, 2025

Dear Ms. Veronica Moore and the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards:

We are writing today to lodge a formal complaint against Advantage Sentencing Alternative Programs, Inc (known as ASAP).

A) The Baltimore Sun reported on 3/5/2025 that:

(i) “The home detention monitoring company[ASAP] that failed to notify authorities within 24 hours that a teen under its supervision had violated house arrest — fatally shooting two other teens during that period, according to Howard County Police — has faced no consequences, even though Maryland law allows for thousands of dollars worth of punitive fines.”

(ii) “According to court records, Zeah violated home detention at least five times that ASAP knew of between Feb. 13 and Feb. 21, when ASAP contacted Howard County District Judge Wayne A. Brooks at 3:03 on a Friday afternoon.”

(iii) “When someone violates home detention orders, the home monitoring company is required to notify the court and the local police agency designated by the court within 24 hours, according to a new state law that went into effect in October.”

[Zeah probe: No consequences for home detention monitoring company that ignored state law](#) Glynis and Cimini, *The Baltimore Sun*. 3/5/2025. Retrieved 3/5/2025.

B) Based on this reporting and Maryland regulation 12.11.10.10 ([PHDMA-Manual-COMAR-12-11-10.00-10 Private Home Detention Monitoring Agencies.pdf](#)), we are filing this complaint letter specifically because we believe ASAP violated: Penalties and Sanctions (A)(2,3,6): (A) The Secretary may deny an application for a license, suspend or revoke a license, or reprimand a licensee, for reasons including, but not limited to, the following..... (2)The applicant or licensee violates any federal, State, or local law or regulation (4) The applicant or licensee fails to perform any order of the court pertaining to a monitored individual (6) The applicant or licensee fails to meet the minimum standards of this chapter.

C) Given this reporting, and others (see: [18-year-old arrested in connection with double shooting near Columbia mall after violating home detention – Baltimore Sun](#) Hubbard, *The Baltimore Sun*. 2/23/2025. Retrieved 3/5/2025

[No bail for Columbia Mall area shooting suspect; previously violated home detention, court records show – Baltimore Sun](#) Hacker and Belson, *The Baltimore Sun*. 2/24/2025. Retrieved 3/5/2025), we believe the MD Commission on Correctional Standards should **open an investigation, or forward a recommendation to conduct an investigation to the appropriate authorities.**

(i) We ask that this letter satisfies the requirements of a formal complaint under COMAR 12.11.10.10 *Penalties and Sanctions*(B)(1-4) and that we receive confirmation of such.

(ii) We ask that we are informed about the result of the determination to conduct an investigation.

(iii) We ask that we are informed about the results of any investigation and any action taken.

I state that to the best of my ability and knowledge, everything in this complaint is true and that I believe it satisfies all criteria and basis for a formal complaint.

Ryan Powers
Glenwood, MD

We Support this Complaint Letter (Name and Hometown)

Bill Holland, Ellicott City MD
Dave McEwan, Ellicott City MD
Marilyn Stoughton, Columbia MD
Martin Gould, Columbia MD
Sherece Gasaway, MD

Cc:

Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive
Paul Thompson, Director of Constituent Services for Howard County CE
David Youngmann, Howard County District 5 Councilman "

Response: please see attached for response letter.



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of the Secretary

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ENTRY SERVICES

March 13, 2025

Mr. Ryan Powers
rpowers115@gmail.com
Glenwood, MD

**RE: FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST ADVANTAGE SENTENCING
 ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS, INC.**

Dear Mr. Powers:

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is in receipt of the written complaint, dated March 7, 2025, concerning the private home detention monitoring agency (PHDMA), Advantage Sentencing and Alternative Programs, Inc. (ASAP). The complaint claims that the home detention monitoring company [ASAP] failed to notify authorities within 24 hours of a teen, under its supervision, who violated house arrest.

The complaint, received via email on March 7, 2025, states that court records indicate that Zeah violated home detention at least five times, between February 13, 2025 and February 21, 2025, when ASAP contacted Howard County District Judge Wayne A. Brooks at 3:03 p.m. on a Friday afternoon. As stated in the complaint, when a monitored individual violates home detention orders, the PHDMA is required to notify the court and the local police agency designated by the court within 24 hours, according to a state law, effective in October 2024. The complaint cites a Baltimore Sun article, “Zeah probe: No consequences for home detention monitoring company that ignored state law”, by Glynis and Cimini (March 5, 2025).

The Department is following the guidelines of COMAR 12.11.10.10, Penalties and Sanctions, B as addressing any received complaints. Based on the findings, as prescribed by the Business Occupations and Professions Article of the Maryland Code, Section §20-401, (d) (2) and COMAR 12.11.10.10, Penalties and Sanctions, the appropriate action will be taken in this matter. The procedures for denying a license to an applicant, suspending or revoking a license, reprimanding a licensee and/or civil penalties is provided below:

See Business Occupations and Professions Article of the Maryland Code, Section §20-401, (d) (2),

B. Procedures for Denying a License to an Applicant, Suspending or Revoking a License, or Reprimanding a Licensee.

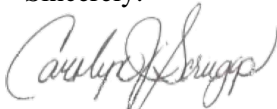
(1) A complaint shall be initiated by the Secretary or made to the Secretary.

(2) A complaint shall be in writing, signed by the complainant, and state the facts on which the complaint is based.

- (3) A complaint to the Secretary shall be made under oath by the complainant.
- (4) On receipt of a complaint, the Secretary shall investigate the complaint.
- (5) At the conclusion of the investigation, the Secretary shall determine if there is a reasonable basis for grounds for denial of a license or other penalty.
- (6) Based on the allegation of a complaint which is not dismissed under this regulation, the Secretary shall determine the appropriate action and shall send by U.S. mail a notice to the applicant or licensee that action shall be taken unless the applicant or licensee submits, within 30 days of the date of the notice, a written request for a hearing. The notice shall include:
 - (a) A copy of the complaint;
 - (b) A reference to a pertinent law or regulation, or both;
 - (c) The action to be taken; and
 - (d) A copy of COMAR 12.11.04.
- (7) If a written request for a hearing is not received by the Secretary within 30 days of the date of the notice, the Secretary shall take the action specified in the notice.
- (8) If a written request for a hearing is received by the Secretary within 30 days of the date of the notice, the matter shall proceed in accordance with COMAR 12.11.04.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely:



Carolyn J. Scruggs
Secretary

cc: Anthony Gaskins, Chief of Staff
Stuart M. Nathan, Principal Counsel, Office of the Attorney General
Elise Ice, Deputy Counsel, Office of the Attorney General
Mary Denise Davis, Assistant Attorney General
Tanya Joyner, Assistant Executive Director, MCCA
File