

A Statement from Hacienda Healthcare:

In response to recent events, Hacienda (www.haciendainc.org) has aggressively revamped its security infrastructure, overhauled its care policies and changed its organizational culture.

Every member of the Hacienda organization is troubled beyond words to think that a licensed practical nurse could be capable of seriously harming a patient. Nathan Sutherland, who held a current state of Arizona practical nurse's license and who had undergone an extensive background check upon hiring – was terminated from Hacienda the moment our leadership team learned of his arrest. The two doctors who cared for the victim in this awful case no longer see Hacienda patients. Since the first minutes of this police investigation, the Hacienda team continues to cooperate with investigators from multiple agencies in every way possible.

We will continue to review and improve what is already an in-depth vetting process for caregivers at Hacienda. We will not tolerate any mistreatment of a Hacienda patient, nor will we stop until every Hacienda patient is as safe as we can make them.

Once again, we offer an apology and send our deepest sympathies to the client and her family.

Former County Attorney Rick Romley has been engaged in a comprehensive internal review to ensure no Hacienda patient is ever again victimized in any way. We have done everything in our power to cooperate with state and law enforcement.

In addition to these leadership and organizational changes, Hacienda has agreed to the State of Arizona's request to have a third-party management team in place to oversee patient care and daily operations. The object, again, is to ensure that not a single Hacienda patient is in danger or receiving anything less than exceptional and compassionate care.

These efforts will not stop. These are not cosmetic changes. Rather, this organization intends to do everything in its power to restore its credibility with our patients, their families, the public, our supporters, and Gov. Ducey. As he does, we too, believe that no patient in Hacienda's care can ever again be placed in harm's way.