

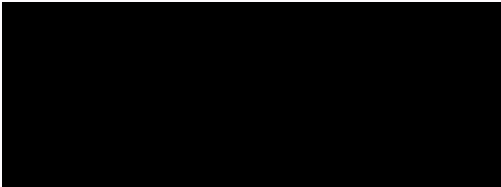
2018-004

STEVEN T. MARSHALL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

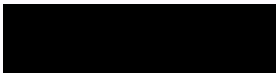
STATE OF ALABAMA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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November 13, 2017



Re: Huntsville Hospital Health System- Blackwell Medical Tower



On August 14, 2017, my Office received your petition regarding a possible violation of Ala. Code §13A-11-61.3 by the Huntsville Hospital Health System – Blackwell Medical Tower. Specifically, you alleged that firearms are unlawfully prohibited in the Blackwell Medical Tower.

My Office's investigation determined that signs prohibiting firearms were posted at the Blackwell Medical Tower. I asked the Huntsville Hospital Health System to explain its legal justification for prohibiting firearms at the Blackwell Medical Tower. Huntsville Hospital Health System explained that the Blackwell Medical Tower is the western entrance point to Huntsville Hospital Main, a 941-bed acute care hospital that serves as a major referral hospital and trauma center for patients throughout northern Alabama and southern Tennessee. Inpatient and custodial care of patients with psychiatric, mental, and emotional disorders are included among the acute care services provided by the Huntsville Hospital Health System.

Section 13A-11-61.2(a)(3) allows firearms to be prohibited "[i]nside a facility which provides inpatient or custodial care of those with psychiatric, mental, or emotional disorders." A "facility" is defined as "something (as a *hospital*, machinery, plumbing) that is built, constructed, installed or established to perform some particular function or to serve or facilitate some particular end." Webster's Third New International Dictionary, 812-813 (emphasis added). Thus, the Huntsville Hospital Health System may prohibit firearms throughout its facility.

Because the Huntsville Hospital Health System is compliant with Alabama law, I have determined that there is no further action required under Ala. Code § 13A-11-61.3.

A redacted copy of this letter will be posted to my Office's website, in furtherance of the statutory requirements under Ala. Code § 13A-11-61.3(f)(3).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Marshall
Attorney General

SM/RWS/as
2409689/182001