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9	Attorneys for the State of Arizona			
10				
11	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA			
	IN AND FOR THE COUN	ГҮ OF MARICOPA		
12	ROSE MARIE SCHESKE, an individual,	Case No.: CV2022-014439		
13				
14	Plaintiff; and	MOTION FOR LIMITED PURPOSE		
15	STATE OF ARIZONA, <i>ex rel</i> . KRISTIN K.	INTERVENTION		
16	MAYES, Attorney General,	(Assigned to the Hon. Brad Astrowsky)		
17		(Assigned to the Hon. Diad Astrowsky)		
	Plaintiff-Intervenor,	(Assigned to the Holl. Diad Astrowsky)		
18		(Assigned to the Holl. Diad Astrowsky)		
	Plaintiff-Intervenor, v.	(Assigned to the fion. Diad Astrowsky)		
19	v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a	(Assigned to the fion. Diad Astrowsky)		
19 20	v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and	(Assigned to the fion. Drad Astrowsky)		
19 20 21	v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited	(Assigned to the fion. Diad Astrowsky)		
19 20	v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Company,	(Assigned to the from blad Astrowsky)		
19 20 21	v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited	(Assigned to the fion. brad Astrowsky)		
19 20 21 22	v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Company,	(Assigned to the fion. brad Astrowsky)		
 19 20 21 22 23 	v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Company,			
 19 20 21 22 23 24 	v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Company, Defendants.	(a)(1) of the Arizona Rules of Civil		
 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 	v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Company, Defendants. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 46-455(M) and Rule 244	(a)(1) of the Arizona Rules of Civil ayes, the Attorney General (the "State"),		

filed October 31, 2023. This motion is accompanied by the Attorney General's certification that this case is of special public importance as required by A.R.S. § 46-455(M) (attached hereto as **Exhibit A**) and a copy of the proposed Complaint-In-Intervention as required by Rule 24(c)(1)(B) (attached hereto as **Exhibit B**). This motion is supported by the record in this case and the following memorandum of points and authorities. A proposed form of order is lodged herewith.

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

Plaintiff Rose Marie Scheske filed this lawsuit on October 31, 2022, alleging (*inter alia*) elder abuse and elder neglect under the Adult Protective Services Act, A.R.S. § 46-451 *et seq*. Defendants filed a motion asking the Court to dismiss the case and enforce an agreement between Plaintiff and Defendant Ridges at Peoria, LLC ("Arbitration Agreement").

On October 31, 2023, the Court filed a ruling granting in part and denying in part the motion, and ordering all parties (including Defendant The Goodman Group MN, LLC (FN), who did not sign the Arbitration Agreement) to arbitrate all claims. The Court denied the motion to the extent that it sought dismissal of the above-numbered action. The Court also "blue penciled" two provisions of the Arbitration Agreement, striking them on the grounds of substantive unconscionability.

For the reasons set forth in the proposed Complaint-In-Intervention, the State believes that the Arbitration Agreement violates Arizona law and policy because it seeks to force claims of vulnerable adult abuse into secret proceedings, thereby eliminating the important role of the Attorney General under the Adult Protective Services Act. None of the parties to the case raised these issues for the Court's consideration, which in turn prevented the Court from addressing them in the October 31 ruling.

The Attorney General therefore files this intervention motion for the specific purpose of presenting the illegality arguments to the Court and obtaining a Rule 54(b) declaratory judgment as to whether the Arbitration Agreement is void due to illegality. Because the issues raise in this limited purpose intervention are pure questions of law arising from facts already established in this proceeding, no discovery will be necessary to resolve the State's claims. The State intends to

file the proposed Complaint-In-Intervention as soon as the Court authorizes the filing, and then file a motion for summary judgment on the State's pleading as soon as permitted by the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure.

ARGUMENT

I. The Adult Protective Services Act grants the Attorney General the absolute right to intervene in this action.

The Adult Protective Services Act establishes a cause of action for any vulnerable adult whose life or health is being or has been endangered or injured by neglect, abuse or exploitation. An affected person may file an action in superior court against any person or enterprise that has been employed to provide care, that has assumed a legal duty to provide care, or that has been appointed by a court to provide care to such vulnerable adult for having caused or allowed such conduct. A.R.S. § 46-455(B).

The Arizona Attorney General has the statutory right to bring a civil action for the State on behalf of persons endangered or injured in the manner described above in order to prevent, restrain or remedy the conduct described in A.R.S. § 46-455. *See* A.R.S. § 46-455(E). The Attorney General also has the unconditional statutory right to intervene in a civil case filed by a private plaintiff alleging abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult "if the attorney general certifies that in his [sic] opinion the action is of special public importance." A.R.S. § 46-455(M).

The Attorney General has certified that the above-numbered action is of special public importance. *See* Exhibit A. Therefore the Attorney General has an absolute right to intervene in this matter, and the only question for decision by the Court is whether this Motion is timely. *See Winner Enterprises, Ltd. v. Superior Court in & for Cnty. of Yavapai*, 159 Ariz. 106, 108 (App. 1988) ("[W]e find [the intervenor] had an absolute right to intervene. Our inquiry is therefore limited to one question: Was the motion to intervene timely?")

II. The motion to intervene is timely.

The Attorney General's Motion to Intervene in this case is timely, as required by A.R.S. § 46-455(M) ("timely application") and Ariz. R. Civ. P. 24(a) ("timely motion" requirement).

"Because an intervenor of right may be seriously harmed if not permitted to intervene, the court should be reluctant to dismiss a request for intervention as untimely." *Winner Enterprises*, 159 Ariz. at 109. Generally, a trial court must assess the timeliness of a motion by considering the stage of the proceedings when the intervention is sought, whether the applicant could have attempted to intervene sooner, and most importantly, whether the delay in moving to intervene will prejudice the existing parties. *State ex rel. Napolitano v. Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.*, 196 Ariz. 382, 384 ¶ 5 (2000). All three of these elements favor granting intervention in this matter.

First, the stage of proceedings is appropriate. The Court has ordered the parties to arbitration, but to the State's knowledge no arbitrator has yet been selected. Therefore no proceedings will be interrupted if the Court ultimately grants the State's proposed motion for summary judgment. The parties will be able to continue the dispute in the Superior Court without the need to abandon an ongoing arbitration. Similarly, if the Court denies the State's proposed motion for summary judgment, arbitration proceedings can be stayed pending appeal.

Second, the State could not have intervened sooner in this matter. Although Plaintiff filed the case in October 2022, the Court did not file its ruling compelling the parties to arbitrate until October 31, 2023, a full year later. Moreover, as the State was not a party to this action, it received no automated notice of any filings in the case, and therefore was not aware Defendants had filed a motion to compel arbitration. Once the State became aware that the Court had enforced a contract the State believes to be illegal, the State still needed to review the full briefing to determine what issues were argued to the Court. In addition, the State could not determine where to file for intervention until consultation with Plaintiff's counsel established whether the Court's October 31 ruling would be challenged in a special action to the Court of Appeals. The State therefore filed this Motion as soon as it was reasonably possible to do so.

Finally, no party is prejudiced by intervention. Plaintiff's counsel has informed the State that it supports intervention and will not object, so the only possible prejudice would be to Defendants. No such prejudice can exist, however, because the question of whether the Arbitration Agreement is legal will remain a live issue until resolved by legal action pursued by the Attorney General. It would be better for all parties, including Defendants, if the legitimacy of the arbitration proceeding is established *before* the parties invest significant time and resources into an arbitration that may ultimately be discarded as moot. Reaching a final resolution on the legality question sooner rather than later will benefit the parties, not prejudice them.

For these reasons, the State's Motion is timely and should be granted.

CONCLUSION

The State has an absolute right to intervene in this matter, and its Motion to the Court is timely under the circumstances. The State therefore respectfully requests that the Court grant the Motion and order the State to file its pleading in intervention pursuant to Rule 24 of the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure. A proposed form of order is lodged with this Motion.

DATED this 15th day of December, 2023.

KRISTIN K. MAYES Attorney General

By: <u>/s/ Shane M. Ham</u>

Shane M. Ham Attorneys for Plaintiff State of Arizona

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2	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
3	Document electronically transmitted
4	to the Clerk of the Court for filing using
5	AZTurboCourt this 15th day of December, 2023.
6	COPY of the foregoing served via <i>AZTurboCourt</i>
7	and courtesy copy e-mailed this 15th day of December, 2023 to:
8	RICHARDS & MOSKOWITZ PLC
9	William A. Richards
10	1850 N. Central Avenue, Suite 2010 Phoenix, Arizona 85004
11	BRichards@RMazlaw.com
	Attorney for Plaintiff Rose Marie Scheske
12	JONES, SKELTON & HOCHULI, P.L.C.
13	David S. Cohen
14	40 N. Central Avenue, Suite 2700
15	Phoenix, Arizona 85004 dcohen@jshfirm.com
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17	Attorney for the Defendants
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19	/s/ Shane M. Ham
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9	Attorneys for the State of Arizona			
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11	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE	STATE OF ARIZONA		
	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA			
12	ROSE MARIE SCHESKE, an individual,	Case No.: CV2022-014439		
13				
14	Plaintiff; and	CERTIFICATION OF SPECIAL		
15	STATE OF ARIZONA, <i>ex rel</i> . KRISTIN K.	PUBLIC IMPORTANCE		
15 16	STATE OF ARIZONA, <i>ex rel</i> . KRISTIN K. MAYES, Attorney General,	PUBLIC IMPORTANCE		
		PUBLIC IMPORTANCE		
16	MAYES, Attorney General, Plaintiff-Intervenor,	PUBLIC IMPORTANCE		
16 17	MAYES, Attorney General, Plaintiff-Intervenor, v.	PUBLIC IMPORTANCE		
16 17 18 19	MAYES, Attorney General, Plaintiff-Intervenor, v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a	PUBLIC IMPORTANCE		
16 17 18 19 20	MAYES, Attorney General, Plaintiff-Intervenor, v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and	PUBLIC IMPORTANCE		
16 17 18 19 20 21	MAYES, Attorney General, Plaintiff-Intervenor, v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a	PUBLIC IMPORTANCE		
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 	MAYES, Attorney General, Plaintiff-Intervenor, v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited	PUBLIC IMPORTANCE		
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 	MAYES, Attorney General, Plaintiff-Intervenor, v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Company,	PUBLIC IMPORTANCE		
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 	MAYES, Attorney General, Plaintiff-Intervenor, v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Company, Defendants.			
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 	MAYES, Attorney General, Plaintiff-Intervenor, v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Company, Defendants. WHEREAS the above-numbered action invo	lves allegations of abuse and neglect of a		
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 	MAYES, Attorney General, Plaintiff-Intervenor, v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Company, Defendants. WHEREAS the above-numbered action involves of the second seco	lves allegations of abuse and neglect of a rvices Act; and		
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 	MAYES, Attorney General, Plaintiff-Intervenor, v. THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Company, Defendants. WHEREAS the above-numbered action invo	lves allegations of abuse and neglect of a rvices Act; and d action has ordered the parties to engage in		

WHEREAS the Adult Protective Services Act gives the Attorney General the absolute right to intervene in cases alleging violations of the Act;

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above-numbered action is of special public importance to the citizens of Arizona, and I direct the Office of the Attorney General to seek the Court's leave to intervene in the action and present to the Court all relevant materials and arguments relating to the illegality of the arbitration agreement at issue.

-2 -

DATED this $\underline{14}^{P}$ of December, 2023.

KRISTIN K. MAYES Attorney General

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9	Attorneys for the State of Arizona		
10	SUDEDIOD COUDT OF THE	STATE OF ADIZONA	
11	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA		
12			
13	ROSE MARIE SCHESKE, an individual,	Case No.: CV2022-014439	
14	Plaintiff; and	COMPLAINT-IN-INTERVENTION	
15	STATE OF ARIZONA, <i>ex rel.</i> KRISTIN K.	(Declaratory Judgment)	
16	MAYES, Attorney General,	(Declaratory Judgment)	
17	Plaintiff-Intervenor,	(Assigned to the Hon. Brad Astrowsky)	
18			
19	V.		
	THE GOODMAN GROUP MN, LLC (FN), a		
20	Minnesota Limited Liability Company; and		
21	RIDGES AT PEORIA, LLC, a Minnesota Limited		
22	Liability Company,		
	Defendants.		
23			
24		-	
25	Plaintiff, State of Arizona <i>ex rel</i> . Kristin K. M	layes, the Attorney General (the "State"),	
26	alleges the following for its Complaint-in-Intervention	on (the "Complaint") against The Goodman	
27	Group MN, LLC (FN) and Ridges at Peoria, LLC ("Defendants").		
28			

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff Rose Marie Scheske was a resident at the Senita Ridge Memory Care facility, where she alleges she was abused and neglected by the actions and omissions of staff at the facility. The abuse and neglect allegations include administering overdoses of certain medications while failing to administer others, failure to provide a suitable diet, and failure to maintain a safe environment. Mrs. Scheske filed this lawsuit seeking compensation for the injuries she suffered while at Senita Ridge.

2. When Mrs. Scheske was admitted to Senita Ridge, her daughter executed numerous documents, including an Arbitration Agreement between Defendant Ridges at Peoria, LLC and Mrs. Scheske. After being served with this lawsuit, both Defendants moved the Court to enforce the Arbitration Agreement, even though one of the Defendants was not a party to that Agreement.

3. Plaintiff opposed the motion on several grounds, including that Arbitration Agreement was unconscionable and therefore unenforceable.

4. After full briefing, on October 31, 2023 the Court ruled that the Arbitration Agreement contained two substantively unconscionable provisions. However, rather than holding the Arbitration Agreement to be unenforceable, the Court instead excised two provisions, one limiting Plaintiff's non-economic damages to \$500,000 and one requiring each party to bear their own costs and fees.

5. Although none of the parties raised the issue, the Arbitration Agreement violates the Adult Protective Services Act ("APSA") because it contains a confidentiality clause and other provisions that seek to strip the Attorney General of her statutory role in protecting vulnerable adults. This statutory role includes monitoring all privately filed APSA cases and logging the outcome in a registry, and intervening in cases the Attorney General deems to be of special public importance.

6. The Attorney General seeks to intervene in this case for the limited purpose of seeking a declaratory judgment that the Arbitration Agreement is void and unenforceable due to substantive unconscionability, illegality, and contravention of public policy.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. The State brings this action pursuant to APSA, Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") §§ 46-451 to -474, and the Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act, A.R.S. §§ 12-1831 to -1846 to obtain declaratory relief from an order of this Court commanding the parties to engage in a confidential arbitration in violation of APSA.

8. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-123.

9. Venue is proper in Maricopa County pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-401(17).

10. The State is not barred by any statute of limitations in bringing its claims pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-510.

PARTIES

11. Plaintiff-Intervenor is the State of Arizona ex rel. Kristin K. Mayes, the Attorney 12 General of Arizona, who is authorized to bring this action pursuant to the Adult Protective 13 Services Act.

12. Plaintiff Rose Marie Scheske is an Arizona resident and vulnerable adult who alleges multiple causes of action against Defendants.

Defendant The Goodman Group MN, LLC (FN) ("Goodman Group") is a 13. Minnesota limited liability company registered to do business in Arizona under the abovecaptioned name. The entity was formed in the state of Minnesota under the name "The Goodman Group, LLC."

Defendant Ridges at Peoria, LLC ("Ridges at Peoria") is a Minnesota limited 14. liability company registered to do business and at all relevant times doing business in the State of Arizona.

PLAINTIFF'S LAWSUIT AND DEFENDANTS' RESPONSE

15. Plaintiff was admitted to the Senita Ridge facility on or about June 17, 2021. The admission paperwork was executed by her daughter, Tina McLees, who characterized herself as power of attorney for her mother.

16. As a result of the treatment Plaintiff received while a resident at Senita Ridge, she filed this lawsuit on or about October 31, 2022. The Complaint made numerous direct references to APSA, including alleging that Plaintiff was a vulnerable adult within the meaning of the statute.

17. On or about November 28, 2022 Defendants filed a "Motion to Dismiss/Motion to Enforce Arbitration Agreement." In their motion, Defendants did not inform the Court that Defendant Goodman Group is not a party to the Arbitration Agreement and does not fall into the categories of "successors" or "assigns" of Defendant Ridges at Peoria. The motion did not state any basis whatsoever for Defendant Goodman Group to enforce an agreement to which it was not a party.

18. In the motion, Defendants asserted that they were "hereby initiat[ing] binding arbitration of all of Plaintiff's claims." This purported initiation included Goodman Group, even though the Arbitration Agreement states that an arbitration may only be initiated by "[e]ither party to this Agreement." Goodman Group is not a party to the Arbitration Agreement and therefore has no legal standing to initiate an arbitration.

19. The Arbitration Agreement does not allow for initiation of arbitration by adding a sentence to a motion to dismiss a lawsuit. Rather, the Arbitration Agreement requires initiation of an arbitration by a party to the Agreement "by delivering a written demand for arbitration to the other party at such party's last known address." Defendants delivered their demand to the Clerk of the Court, not the Plaintiff's last known address.

20. The Arbitration Agreement specifically requires any arbitration demand include a statement of the name of the initiating party and a statement of the relief sought by the initiating party.

21. The purported initiation of arbitration in the motion to dismiss did not specify which party was initiating arbitration and did not state the relief sought aside from asking the Court to "compel Plaintiff to abide by the terms of the Agreement."

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ROLE UNDER APSA

22. In passing APSA, the Arizona legislature gave an important role to the Attorney General in the statutory scheme in order to best protect all vulnerable adults in the State.

23. Among the unique powers granted to the Attorney General by APSA are the absolute right to intervene in any case where the Attorney General certifies that the case is of

"special public importance." A.R.S. § 46-455(M). The Attorney General may also initiate lawsuits "to prevent, restrain or remedy the conduct described in" APSA. A.R.S. § 46-455(E).

24. APSA requires any person who files a lawsuit alleging abuse of a vulnerable adult to provide notice and a copy of the complaint to the Attorney General, who in turn is required to notify the appropriate licensing agency. A.R.S. §§ 46-455(J); 46-457(A).

25. The statute also requires the Attorney General to maintain a registry of all persons who were found to be responsible for abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult. A.R.S. § 46-457(D). The registry is to include information about the general nature of the conduct and the final disposition of the legal action. *Id*.

26. APSA authorizes many extraordinary remedies for violations of the statute. With respect to an "enterprise" that violates APSA, the remedies include forcing persons with an ownership interest in an enterprise to divest themselves of that interest, as well as ordering the dissolution or reorganization of any enterprise. A.R.S. § 46-455(H). These latter two of these remedies are often referred to colloquially as the "corporate death penalty."

27. The statute contemplates the Attorney General's role to be distinct from private plaintiffs who file lawsuits alleging abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults. Private lawsuits brought by vulnerable adults or their families are necessarily backward-looking, focused on the specific treatment of one vulnerable adult and seeking compensation for those past actions. Private citizens have little incentive to spend legal fees to seek forward-looking remedies, as the vulnerable adult generally no longer resides at the defendant facilities. The Attorney General is the party with the incentive to "prevent" and "restrain" future harm to vulnerable adults.

28. In this regard, the Arizona legislature's adoption of APSA reflects a strong public policy toward transparency, shining light on the abusive behavior of persons and entities responsible for taking care of vulnerable adults, and allowing families considering long-term care for vulnerable adults to make informed decisions about the facilities where they admit their loved ones.

29. The Arizona legislature also structured APSA to give the Attorney General a key role in protecting the public from those whose greed and indifference lead to the harms against

vulnerable adults that APSA seeks to prevent.

30. Any contractual arrangement that blocks the Attorney General from knowing about legal actions alleging violations of APSA, or blocking the Attorney General's ability to intervene and participate in those actions, is void for illegality and violation of public policy.

31. Before intervening, APSA requires the Attorney General to certify that a case is of special public importance. Often the public importance of a case becomes clear only after production of evidence. Any arbitration agreement that requires secrecy blocks the Attorney General's ability to determine the importance of the case, and thereby effectively blocks the intervention power granted by APSA.

DEFENDANTS' EFFORTS TO AVOID APSA

32. The Arbitration Agreement at issue in this action attempts to avoid any involvement by the Attorney General, along with the transparency and significant remedies contemplated by the Arizona legislature in adopting APSA.

33. The Arbitration Agreement requires the parties to "maintain confidentiality of the arbitration proceeding in all respects."

34. This confidentiality clause directly violates APSA by prohibiting plaintiffs from fulfilling their statutory duty to notify the Attorney General of pending legal action.

35. APSA also requires the person who files an action to submit a report on the "final disposition" of the matter within 30 days of the final action being taken. A.R.S. § 46-457(A). The confidentiality clause in the Arbitration Agreement would block a plaintiff from complying with this statutory requirement.

36. Maintaining secrecy during the pendency of an arbitration blocks the Attorney General from knowing about the evidence adduced during the course of the proceeding, which prevents the Attorney General from making a determination under APSA that a particular matter is of "special public importance."

37. The Arbitration Agreement seeks to avoid all of these statutory requirements by forcing plaintiffs to initiate arbitration and keep the entire proceeding secret "in all respects." This has the effect of blocking the Attorney General's exercise of APSA power, as well as blocking

potential future residents from learning about conditions at Senita Ridge.

38. The provision in the Arbitration Agreement allowing residents to "file a grievance or complaint . . .with any appropriate government agency" does not mitigate the Agreement's nullification of APSA. Filing a consumer complaint is not the same thing as notifying the Attorney General of the initiation of legal action. Moreover, it is not enough to tell an agency or the Attorney General that a vulnerable adult has complained about actions or conditions at an assisted living facility. Rather, the statute requires the Attorney General to stay abreast of developments in the case to determine if a case is of special public importance, and to record the final disposition in a registry. Those statutory duties are blocked by the Arbitration Agreement as drafted by one or both Defendants.

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OTHER IMPROPER ARBITRATION AGREEMENT PROVISIONS

39. In addition to the facially illegal confidentiality provision, the Arbitration Agreement is permeated with provisions demonstrating, at a minimum, a lack of good faith and fair dealing by the drafter of the Agreement.

40. The Arbitration Agreement is only between Plaintiff and Defendant Ridges at Peoria, LLC. However, Defendants argued to the Court that the Agreement covers both Defendants. This puts both the facility itself and the apparent ownership of the facility behind the wall of secrecy in arbitration. Allowing ownership the benefit of arbitration secrecy despite not being party to the Agreement effectively limits the Attorney General's ability to seek divestment or dissolution remedies under APSA.

41. The Arbitration Agreement contains a clause stating that the Agreement applies to the parties as well as the parties' "successors" and "assigns," of which Defendant Goodman Group is neither. At the same time, the language in the clause attempts to apply the definition of "successors" to the statutory beneficiaries of a wrongful death claim. Because wrongful death claimants are survivors but not successors under Arizona law, this clause is designed to force surviving family members into arbitration even though they never agreed to arbitrate their claims.

42. The Arbitration Agreement grants the power to decide "all discovery and
evidentiary disputes" to the arbitrator, who is operating behind a wall of secrecy. This clause

blocks the Attorney General from evaluating the evidence produced in the case to determine whether to intervene in the case as contemplated by APSA.

43. The Arbitration Agreement is vague and confusing with respect to applicable arbitration law. The Agreement states that it "shall be governed by and interpreted under the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16." The Agreement also states that the losing party has no right of appeal "except as may be provided under the Arizona Uniform Arbitration Act" without citing the statutes by number. This is vague, because the Arizona legislature has adopted the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act, A.R.S. §§ 12-3001 to -3029. This vagueness permits Defendants to cherry-pick between three statutory schemes to find the statute that best suits their arguments.

44. The Arbitration Agreement expressly states that residents are "giving up and waiving their constitutional right to have any claim decided in a court of law," thereby blocking residents from filing suit in court. However, the Agreement also expressly states that only a "court having jurisdiction" may find the Agreement unenforceable. This creates a Catch-22 whereby residents are barred from seeking relief in in a court of law, yet only a court of law may declare the Agreement unenforceable. This blocks any resident from asserting that the Arbitration Agreement is unconscionable or illegal unless the resident files a lawsuit in superior court notwithstanding the Agreement and somehow defeats a dismissal motion.

45. Taken together with the provisions already found to be unconscionable by the Court, the Arbitration Agreement constitutes a bad faith attempt to force residents to abide by a contract that is intentionally vague, illegal, and unconscionable.

COUNT ONE – DECLARATORY RELIEF

46. All allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-44 are incorporated as if restated herein.

47. The State of Arizona, by and through the Attorney General, is a party whose rights and legal relations are affected by the Arbitration Agreement.

48. Entry of a declaratory judgment in this action will terminate the controversy between the State and Defendants.

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49. The State is entitled to a declaratory judgment from the Court stating that the

Arbitration Agreement is void and unenforceable on the grounds of illegality, violation of public
 policy, and unconscionability.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE The State of Arizona prays the Court enter judgment as requested by the State declaring as follows:

A. The provisions of the Arbitration Agreement previously held to be unconscionable
are unconscionable and therefore unenforceable;

B. The confidentiality clause in the Arbitration Agreement violates Arizona law and public policy, and therefore is void and unenforceable;

10 C. The entire Arbitration Agreement is permeated with additional provisions that are 11 illegal or unconscionable;

D. Taken as a whole, the Arbitration Agreement has the purpose and effect of blocking the Attorney General from carrying out duties mandated by the Adult Protective Services Act to protect vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation;

E. Taken as a whole, the Arbitration Agreement violates Arizona law and is contrary to Arizona public policy;

F. The Arbitration Agreement is void *ab initio* and therefore unenforceable and without effect;

G. There is no just reason for delay and therefore final judgment is entered with respect to the State's claims under Rule 54(b) of the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure;

H. Awarding taxable costs to the State upon application; and

I. All such other relief as the Court may find just and equitable.

DATED this _____ of _____, 2023.

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KRISTIN K. MAYES Attorney General

By: <u>/s/</u>

Shane M. Ham Attorneys for Plaintiff State of Arizona