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Juvenile Justice Coalition of Ohio Applaud Ohio for Revoking License of Dangerous Youth Facility

The decision follows a youth advocate led letter urging the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to revoke the operating license of Sequel Pomegranate

Columbus, OH — Last Friday, the **Juvenile Justice Coalition of Ohio (JJC)**, the **National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN)**, and multiple state and national organizations sent a [letter](#) to Lori Criss, Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS), urging the department to revoke the license of Sequel Pomegranate. The letter detailed the behavioral health facility's history of severe safety and health violations against its young residents along with dangerous conditions at Sequel facilities nationwide. Later that afternoon, the MHAS announced its decision to rescind the facility's license to operate with the opportunity to reapply in ten months, adding Ohio to a [list of states](#) that have taken decisive action against the for-profit company.

Kenza Kamal, Policy Director at the Juvenile Justice Coalition of Ohio (JJC) released the following statement in response to the announcement:

"Revoking Sequel Pomegranate's license was the only appropriate decision. Sequel has shown us time and again that it cannot safely care for our youth. They promised trauma-informed psychiatric care to vulnerable teenagers and their families and instead allowed a negligent and violent culture to run rampant. Let's be clear: this facility has no place in Ohio or anywhere in this country.

"Their presence in our community must end. The pervasive pattern of violence, neglect, improper restraining of children, and alleged sexual abuse shows us that the facility cannot adequately fix their systematic, longstanding issues in under a year.

"Our young people deserve justice. JJC urges Sequel Pomegranate to disclose where they sent children in July who were residing in the facility so the public can be sure of their safety. We also call for the closure of all Sequel facilities and youth confinement facilities across the country, and the creation of continuums of care for Ohio youth so they can receive trauma-informed services in their home communities instead."

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Juvenile Justice Coalition is a statewide organization that works through policy advocacy and with Ohio youth and families who are at risk of involvement or involved in the juvenile court system.