



STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

525 WEST JEFFERSON ST, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62761 • (217) 782-3516 FAX: (217) 785-4111

TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY AND VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

November 25, 2025

Juan Morado, Jr., Partner
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan, and Aronoff, LLP
71 South Wacker Drive, Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60606

jmorado@beneschlaw.com

Mark Gridley
President/Chief Executive Officer
Freeport Memorial Hospital
1045 W. Stephenson Street
Freeport, Illinois 61032

Javon R. Bea
Chief Executive Officer
Mercy Health Corporation
2400 N. Rockton Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61103

Re: EXEMPTION APPROVAL

EXEMPTION: #E-018-25 Freeport Memorial Hospital, Freeport

APPLICANTS: Freeport Memorial Hospital, Freeport Regional Health Care Corporation, Mercy Health Corporation

Dear Mr. Gridley, Mr. Bea and Mr. Morado:

On November 25, 2025, the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (“State Board”) approved the request to transfer ownership of Freeport Memorial Hospital from Freeport Regional Health Care Corporation to Mercy Health Corporation. The approval was based upon the application's compliance with applicable provisions of 77 Ill. Adm. Code 1130. The completion date for this transaction is December 31, 2025.

You are reminded that this exemption for a change of ownership of a health care facility shall be **invalid** if the exemption holder fails to submit a statement to the Board within 90 days after the closing date of the transaction or such more extended period as provided by the Board, certifying that the change of ownership has been completed following the key terms contained in the certificate of exemption (“COE”) application. If such key terms of the transaction change, a new COE application shall be required under Section 8.5(a) of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act (“Planning Act”).

You are solely responsible for ensuring full compliance with all the requirements concerning a change of ownership exemption outlined in the Planning Act and the applicable administrative rules. Failure to provide the required notification shall subject the exemption holder to the sanctions provided under Section 14 of the Planning Act and 77 Ill. Adm. Code 1130.790.

The exemption will be invalid should the facility for which the change of ownership was granted cease to be an existing healthcare facility. The State Board's approval does not exempt the

transaction from any other regulatory, certification, or licensure requirements that apply before or after the change of ownership.

Should you have any questions, contact HFSRB staff at (217) 782-3516 or via email at DPH.HFSRB@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,



John P. Kniery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

Certificate of Service

Sharie Ryan, HFSRB Office Coordinator, under penalties as provided by law pursuant to §1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure (735 ILCS 5/1-109), certifies that the statements outlined in this certificate of service are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that they verily believe the same to be true and that they have served a copy of the above-mentioned documents from the foregoing Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board on November 25, 2025 to the below-referenced Applicant(s), by electronic mail and U.S. Post Office Certified Mail to the following:

Juan Morado, Jr., Partner
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By: s/ Sharie Ryan
HFSRB Office Coordinator