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Fire and Emergency Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

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Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services Responds to Unpermitted Board and Care Operation at Rex Church Facility

Rex, GA – On July 29, 2025, Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services (CCFES) responded to an incident at *Now Faith Apostolic Church*, located at 3406 Rex Road. Upon arrival, crews were directed to the basement level of the facility. There, responders observed multiple minors occupying individual rooms, each containing several beds. The scene raised immediate concerns regarding the facility's occupancy use and fire code compliance, prompting notification of the Clayton County Fire Marshal's Office for further investigation.

On July 29, 2025, Fire Marshal personnel conducted an official site inspection and made contact with both the property owner and the facility director. The director confirmed that the church's basement was being utilized as a board and care home for youth that are in the custody of the State Department of Family & Children Services. During the walkthrough, Fire Marshal staff confirmed the presence of 12 juveniles—ages 15 to 18—residing in the basement.

The Fire Marshal's Office advised the owner and director that the current use of the basement represented a change in occupancy classification—from *Assembly (Church)* to *Board and Care*. This type of occupancy requires significant fire and life safety upgrades, including but not limited to:

- Installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system
- A functioning fire alarm system
- Properly placed fire extinguishers
- Enhanced means of egress; and,
- Compliance with all other applicable life safety codes

Due to the severity of the violations and the immediate risk to life safety, CCFES personnel developed an emergency evacuation plan. Later that evening, members of CCFES, and the Clayton County Police Department returned to the site and safely evacuated all minors from the premises.





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The Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS) was notified to coordinate relocation. As the minors were under the jurisdiction of different DFACS offices, the final child was relocated at approximately 5:30 AM on July 30, 2025. CCFES and law enforcement remained on-site throughout the night to ensure the safety and well-being of every individual involved.

Following the investigation, the Fire Marshal's Office issued the following citations to the property owner for violations of the **Clayton County Code of Ordinances, State of Georgia Rules & Regulations for Minimum Fire Safety Standards 120-3-3**, and the adopted **National Fire Protection Association 101 Life Safety Code**:

- **Citation #11587:** Automatic Sprinkler System Required (NFPA 101, Ch. 32.2.3.5)
- **Citation #11588:** Fire Alarm System Required (NFPA 101, Sec. 9.6.1.3)
- **Citation #11589:** Fire Extinguishers Required (NFPA 101, Sec. 7.3.1.1)
- **Citation #11951:** General Requirements for Board and Care (NFPA 101, Ch. 32.1)
- **Citation #11952:** Required Means of Egress (NFPA 101, Ch. 32.2)

These citations are scheduled to be presented before the **Clayton County Code Enforcement Board** on **September 9, 2025**.

“The health and safety of all residents—especially our youth—remains a top priority of Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services,” said Fire Chief Tim Sweat. “We are committed to ensuring that all facilities operating within our county meet the required safety standards to prevent loss of life or injury.”

Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services will continue to work closely with partner agencies and the community to uphold fire and life safety standards throughout the county.

For more information, please contact:

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