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Q: Can a skilled facility disguise an exit door with a painted mural to discourage residents from going out the door?

A: Doors cannot be completely disguised. Doors can be painted or murals placed on doors, but staff, visitors and residents without cognitive impairments must be able to recognize the painted door/mural as an exit door. An exit sign above the door is a must. Sidelights or windows in the door must not be painted so it can be seen that there is something beyond the door. If it is a solid door, other measures must be put in place to show it is a door. One example is that everything on the door, except the hardware is painted. The hardware being unpainted and the exit sign above makes it clear that it is an exit door.