



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF CHILDHOOD - CHILD CARE COMPLIANCE**

**COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF  
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS**

**DATE OF REPORT**  
10/3/2019

**DVN**  
002521453

**FACILITY NAME**  
SHARP, KRISTI

**FACILITY ADDRESS**  
521 SUMMIT

**CITY**  
NEOSHO

**ZIP CODE**  
64850

**PHONE NUMBER**  
(417) 451-6180

**COUNTY**  
NEWTON

**ASSIGNED SPECIALIST**  
KREITZER, PENNY

**RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)**

**VIOLATION(S)**

19 CSR 30-62.182 (1)(A)(1)

Caregivers shall not leave any child without competent adult supervision.

19 CSR 30-62.182 (1)(A)(3)

Caregivers shall provide frequent, direct contact so children are not left unobserved on the premises.

**CONCLUSION SUMMARY**

The Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) determined that Kristi Sharp violated these child care licensing rules when a three-year-old child (Child A) was left outside with no caregiver present. Interviews were conducted with Child E's mother and Child E, Child F's mother and Child F, and Child G's mother. Interviews were also conducted with group home provider Kristi Sharp and caregivers Tonya Fry, Aryson Fell and Karynda Westfield-Mertens.

Kristi Sharp, Tonya Fry and Aryson Fell all denied that Child A was ever left outside alone. Karynda Westfield- Mertens stated that Child E told her that Child A was left outside alone. Ms. Mertens also stated that caregiver Tonya Fry told her that Child A had been left outside.

The parents of Child E, Child F and Child G, all stated their children said that they observed three-year- old Child A outside on the playground with no caregiver present. Child E's mother stated her daughter confirmed having seen Child A outside by himself. Child F's mother reported her eight year old daughter stated Child A was left outside. When Child A was found, Kristi Sharp and caregiver Tonya Fry laughed about it. Child G's mother reported her five year old son, Child G, told her he saw Child A outside by himself. Child G specified there were no other children outside, just Child A. Child G's mother stated she believes her son, and her children no longer attend Kristi Sharp's daycare.

Child E and Child F were interviewed, and were able to provide details regarding the incident. Child E stated a child was left outside, and it happened not long after school started. Child E stated she is a (caregiver's) "helper" so she was at the front of the line of school age children waiting to go outside. When the door to the outdoor play area was opened, Child E saw Child A sitting on wood, in the hot sun and it looked like he was breathing heavily.

Child F reported she and Child E were helpers for caregiver Karynda Westfield Mertens. Ms. Mertens and the two girls were going outside to move toys and benches, but Ms. Mertens had to take a phone call, so Tonya Fry went outside with Child E and Child F. Child F stated as soon as she stepped outside, she saw Child A sitting on wood in the sun. Child F reported no one else was outside with Child A. Child F reported Child A was not crying, but he was sweaty, red and scared because he had been left alone. Child F stated she was worried about Child A because he was "gasping for breath and panting." Child F reported when Tonya Fry told Kristi Sharp what happened, they both started laughing.

Based on these interviews, the complaint was substantiated.

**PROVIDER COMMENTS**

Although this claim was substantiated by the Section for Child Care Regulations, it was thoroughly investigated by the Newton County Sheriff's Office and the Division of Family Services. Both those agencies found no evidence of this claim and determined this case was unfounded. The allegations made against our facility were falsely reported and we deny these claims.

**CORRECTIVE MEASURES****CORRECTIVE MEASURE**

The facility shall provide a written plan describing the manner in which the facility will ensure no children are left behind on the playground. This plan shall be submitted to the Section for Child Care Regulation.

**COMPLETED (Y/N)**

Yes

**COMPLETED DATE**

3/22/2020

**CORRECTIVE MEASURE**

All caregivers counting in child staff ratio shall obtain two clock hours of supervision training.

**COMPLETED (Y/N)**

Yes

**COMPLETED DATE**

3/22/2020

**DISPOSITION**

SUBSTANTIATED

**DISPOSITION DATE**

2/7/2020

**APPROVING SUPERVISOR**

WHITE, LEAH