



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**OFFICE OF CHILDHOOD - CHILD CARE COMPLIANCE**  
**COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF**  
**SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS**

**DATE OF REPORT**  
8/7/2019

**DVN**  
001183839

**FACILITY NAME**  
MERRELL, STEPHANIE

**FACILITY ADDRESS**  
506 W WYACONDA

**CITY**  
LA GRANGE

**ZIP CODE**  
63448-0

**PHONE NUMBER**  
(573) 655-4206

**COUNTY**  
LEWIS

**ASSIGNED SPECIALIST**

**RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)**

**VIOLATION(S)**

19 CSR 30-61.175 (1)(C)(7)

Physical punishment including, but not limited to, spanking, slapping, shaking, biting or pulling hair shall be prohibited.

**CONCLUSION SUMMARY**

Section for Child Care Regulation has determined that Stephanie Merrell, provider, was in violation of the above rules based on the statement from 6 year old, Child A, that he had been spanked by Stephanie Merrell outside of the play room in the kitchen, he got spanked on the bottom with an open hand, you get spanked when you are "really bad", he "got a spanking a couple of days ago", and that his friends saw the spanking; and the statement from 5 year old Child B that he had seen Child A, Child C, and Child E get spanked by Stephanie Merrell. This decision is based on the statement from Sara Bramblett, Community Worker, that she heard Child F and Child G state that Child A was spanked on August 6, 2019, and heard Child F say that she had been spanked by Stephanie Merrell; and the statement from Parent D that Child F and Child G told her that Stephanie Merrell has spanked Child A and Child F and that it was witnessed by Child G. This decision is also based on the statement from Stephanie Merrell that Parent A of Child A told her to "beat his a\*\*\*" if necessary and the statement from Parent A and B of Child A that Parent B has given Stephanie permission to spank Child A and discipline according to her needs and that Parent A told Stephanie that if Child A "acts up" to "get on him" and that it was "not like she told her to beat his a\*\* or anything".

**CORRECTIVE MEASURES**

**CORRECTIVE MEASURE**

Stephanie Merrell will review the licensing rules for discipline in a Family Child Care Home and provide an updated discipline policy for her facility to SCCR for approval.

**COMPLETED (Y/N)**

Yes

**COMPLETED DATE**

10/15/2019

**CORRECTIVE MEASURE**

Stephanie Merrell will complete 2 hours of SCCR approved discipline training which may count in the total 12 hours of annual training. Verification will be made through the OPEN website when training is completed.

**COMPLETED (Y/N)**

Yes

**COMPLETED DATE**

10/27/2019

**DISPOSITION**

SUBSTANTIATED

**DISPOSITION DATE**

10/8/2019

**APPROVING SUPERVISOR**

BRUCE, CHRISTINA