



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
3/24/2022

DVN
002424513

FACILITY NAME

NORTON'S DAY CARE, LLC

FACILITY ADDRESS

3302 S PARK AVE

CITY

SEDALIA

ZIP CODE

65301-8638

PHONE NUMBER

(660) 826-0039

COUNTY

PETTIS

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

IBBOTSON, JESSICA

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

RSMo 210.211.1

It shall be unlawful for any person to establish, maintain or operate a child-care facility for children, or to advertise or hold himself or herself out as being able to perform any of the services as defined in section 210.201, without having in effect a written license granted by the department of elementary and secondary education.

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(B)

Child care personnel shall cooperate with the department.

5 CSR 25-500.082(1)(C)

Children shall have no access to areas not approved for child care.

5 CSR 25-500.082(2)(A)1.

Any floor of a building used for child care shall be approved by the State Fire Marshal or his/her designee.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Compliance Inspector (CI) Jessica Glover conducted an investigation regarding the allegation that Owner Deborah Norton had children in the basement of her home next door to her childcare facility. After conducting the investigation, CI Glover finds this allegation is substantiated. This conclusion is based on the following evidence of licensing rule violations which occurred at the facility:

5 CSR 25-500.082(1)(C) which states: "Children shall have no access to areas not approved for child care."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.082(2)(A)1. which states: "Any floor of a building used for child care shall be approved by the State Fire Marshal or his/her designee."

AND

RSMo 210.211.1 which states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to establish, maintain or operate a child-care facility for children, or to advertise or hold himself or herself out as being able to perform any of the services as defined in section 210.201, without having in effect a written license granted by the department of health and senior services."

On March 24, 2022, CI Glover conducted a walk-through of the facility and Owner Deborah Norton's home to document staff and children attendance. During the walk-through, CI Glover observed six children, ages 6-months-old to 17-months-old, in unlicensed space in the basement of Mrs. Norton's home with Caregiver Gabby Wolf. Parent A (Parent of Child A, 8-months-old) stated that his child had been attending the daycare in Mrs. Norton's basement. Parent A also stated that he and Child A were not related to Mrs. Norton.

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(B) which states: "Child care personnel shall cooperate with the department."

On March 24, 2022, CI Glover interviewed Owner Deborah Norton, Director Marlene Cowles and Caregivers London Cornell, Morgan Jinks, Zoey Schnakenberg and Gabby Wolf whom all stated that children were not being cared for in the basement of Mrs. Norton's home next door to the facility.

On March 29, 2022, CI Glover received a phone call from Ms. Cornell who stated that she was working in the basement of Mrs. Norton's home when CI Glover arrived at the group home facility next door. Ms. Cornell stated that Mrs. Norton instructed her to

walk over to the group home facility immediately. Ms. Cornell also stated that all staff were instructed upon employment by Mrs. Norton to lie to the Office of Childhood if they were ever asked about children being cared for in the basement of her home. Ms. Cornell stated that Mrs. Norton messaged all the teachers while CI Glover was present at the unlicensed space in the basement of her home to have parents pick their children up from the group home facility so that CI Glover would not see them.

On April 7, 2022, CI Glover interviewed Ms. Cowles who stated she was still not aware of any children being cared for in the unlicensed space in the basement of Mrs. Norton's home. Ms. Cowles also stated that staff were not going back and forth between the group home facility and the basement. However, CI Glover interviewed Ms. Cornell who stated that she and Ms. Schnakenberg both worked in the basement and the group home facility and would go back and forth as needed. Ms. Schnakenberg and Ms. Cornell were instructed by Ms. Cowles and Mrs. Norton to tell the Office of Childhood that there were no children being cared for in the basement and that none of the teachers went back and forth to work at both locations.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

The provider shall ensure that the conditions and limitations specified on the license are adhered to at all times. The child care provider must provide the Child Care Compliance Section with a statement, signed by Owner Deborah Norton, Provider Marlene Cowles and all approved assistants, to indicate they understand and agree to follow the requirements. A copy of the signed statements shall be provided to the Child Care Compliance Section.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

4/30/2022

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

The facility shall notify all staff members of the violations which were substantiated, and specify the actions to be taken by all staff in order to comply with all licensing violations cited. A copy of the memo, letter, or staff meeting agenda(s) shall be submitted to the Office of Childhood.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

11/9/2022

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

11/8/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

NURNBERG, TONY A