



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

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

DATE OF REPORT
4/28/2022

DVN
001843894

FACILITY NAME

A-ZANIPOLO CHILD CARE-LEARNING CENTER LLC

FACILITY ADDRESS

2407 S STATE ROUTE 291

CITY

INDEPENDENCE

ZIP CODE

64057-1203

PHONE NUMBER

(816) 795-8182

COUNTY

JACKSON

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

IBBOTSON, JESSICA

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.082(1)(K)

No person shall smoke or otherwise use tobacco products in any area of the child care facility during the period of time when children cared for under the license are present.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Compliance Inspector (CI) Jessica Glover conducted an investigation regarding the allegation that teachers were vaping indoors in front of children and blowing smoke towards the children. 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)(K) which states: "No person shall smoke or otherwise use tobacco products in any area of the childcare facility during the period of time when children cared for under the license are present."

On May 11, 2022, CI Glover interviewed Director Fred Huffman, Assistant Director Faith Cummins and Caregivers Dana Winters, Brailynn Harlan and Teon Cokes whom all stated that staff were allowed to smoke and vape on premises. Mr. Huffman stated that teachers who utilized a smoke break were required to go outside and smoke in a designated area near the playground. Ms. Harland stated she would often times vape inside the staff bathroom throughout the day as well. Even though none of the staff admitted to blowing smoke in the direction of the children, CI Glover determined that staff were smoking and using tobacco products in the area of the childcare facility during childcare hours, while children were present.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

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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

2/22/2023

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

12/9/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

NURNBERG, TONYA