



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT

12/6/2019

DVN

000398583

FACILITY NAME

TONYA'S LEARNING CHILDCARE

FACILITY ADDRESS

4917 E 40TH TER

CITY

KANSAS CITY

ZIP CODE

64130

PHONE NUMBER

(816) 923-7139

COUNTY

JACKSON

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

RUFFIN, MICHELLE

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

19 CSR 30-61.085 (1)(K)

Ammunition, guns, hunting knives, bows and arrows or other weapons shall be stored in a locked cabinet or locked closet.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

The Section for Child Care Regulation has determined that Tonya's Learning Childcare violated the above licensing rule on December 5, 2019 based on interviews with Tonya Palton, Child A's parent and observations.

On December 6, 2019, CCFS Michelle Ruffin conducted an unannounced inspection at Tonya's Learning Childcare. An interview was conducted with provider Tonya Palton who stated that Child A had been attending the daycare for about seven (7) days and she had some concerns with Child A arriving with items that were not appropriate for an eight-month-old child and had attempted to address these concerns with Parent A who became argumentative with her. On December 5, 2019, when Parent A dropped Child A off, she attempted to talk with Parent A about her concerns and an argument occurred between herself and Parent A. When Parent A and Adult A returned to pick up Child A, Parent A immediately began to argue with her about Child A's belongings. She asked Parent A to leave, Parent A refused. She attempted to take a photo of Parent A when Parent A hit her arm and knocked the phone out of her hand. Parent A continued to refuse to leave her home. She stated she was afraid for her safety because she was alone and there were two of them. She admitted to going upstairs and retrieving her handgun (a .38 smith and Wesson revolver) and brought it downstairs and sat it on the shelf in the dining room. She called the police when Parent A went outside. She denies raising the gun and pointing it at any one.

During the inspection, CCFS Ruffin observed an unloaded .38 Revolver Handgun and a box of ammunition under a blanket in the provider's bedroom in the upstairs of the home. There were three (3) bedrooms located upstairs and all doors were locked and the doors all had safety locks on them.

Based on these interviews and observations, there is sufficient evidence that Tonya Palton violated this child care licensing rule by bringing a handgun into the child care area and not having the handgun stored in a locked cabinet or locked closet. Therefore this allegation is substantiated.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

Tonya Palton will submit a statement to SCCR that she will keep her gun in a locked cabinet or a locked closet at all times during child care hours.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

5/14/2020

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

2/4/2020

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

KENNEDY, AMY C