



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
9/13/2022

DVN
002946861

FACILITY NAME

THE ELEGANT CHILD CAMPUS

FACILITY ADDRESS

513 STRECKER RD

CITY

WILDWOOD

ZIP CODE

63011-1727

PHONE NUMBER

(636) 458-4414

COUNTY

ST LOUIS

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

HUDSON, ELIZABETH

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-600.020 (2)

A prospective child care staff member may begin work for a child care provider if:

5 CSR 25-600.020 (2)(A)

The prospective child care staff member has received notice from the department that the individual is eligible for employment or presence in a child care setting; or

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(N)

Child care staff members shall have qualifying background screening results on file as required by 5 CSR 25-600.020 General Requirements.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On September 13, 2022, the Office of Childhood (OOC) received an allegation that turnover of employees has been rapid, beginning Summer 2022. The reporter questions the ability of completed and filed fingerprinting and background check complete before employees start working in the classrooms with children. For example: an employee interviewed Fri. 9/9/22 and then started working at the facility on Monday 9/11/22, directly working with children. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Liz Hudson has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence:

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(N)., which states: "Child care staff members shall have qualifying background screening results on file as required by 5 CSR 25-600.020 General Requirements."

AND

5 CSR 25-600.020 (2)., which states: "A prospective child care staff member may begin work for a child care provider if :"

AND

5 CSR 25-600.020 (2)(A)., which states: "The prospective child care staff member has received notice from the department that the individual is eligible for employment or presence in a child care setting."

On September 21, 2022, CI Hudson conducted an unannounced inspection at The Elegant Child Campus . CI Hudson interviewed Director Kathy Wolfe as well as Assistant Director Kim Ruprcht. All statements were consistent. Director Kathy Wolfe stated that she had not been made aware of the most recent rule regarding employee screenings and eligibility letters and thought that the facility was in compliance allowing new employees to start working with the children as long as there was a second staff member always present who is fully approved and trained. Ms. Wolfe as well as the other staff assured CI Hudson that the new workers have never been left alone with children without a second, approved staff present. Ms. Wolfe took immediate measures with CI Hudson in her office to correct the matter. Ms. Wolfe called out two new staff members who had not received eligibility letters yet and informed them that they would have to exit the facility until these letters were received. An employee file audit was completed with Ms. Wolfe and there were no other employees in need of eligibility letters from the Office of Childhood .

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

COMPLETED (Y/N)

COMPLETED DATE

No

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

12/27/2022

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CHRISCO, MARLA L