



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

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT

5/12/2023

DVN

002983973

FACILITY NAME

CAMERON'S COTTAGE

FACILITY ADDRESS

733 DUNN RD

CITY

HAZELWOOD

ZIP CODE

63042-1740

PHONE NUMBER

(314) 528-8009

COUNTY

ST LOUIS

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

FYFE, IAN

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

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

Open windows and doors shall be screened securely. Barriers to prevent children from falling against windows or falling from windows shall be provided when windows are less than twenty-four inches (24") from the floor and not constructed of safety glass or other nonbreakable material.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On May 12, 2023, the Office of Childhood (OOC) received an allegation that Child A's (7-months-old) caregiver, Ms. Natalie, had the classroom door propped open. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Ian Fyfe has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence:

5 CSR 25-500.082(2)(A)2., which states the following: "Open windows and doors shall be screened securely. Barriers to prevent children from falling against windows or falling from windows shall be provided when windows are less than twenty-four inches (24") from the floor and not constructed of safety glass or other nonbreakable material."

On May 18, 2023, Compliance Inspector (CI) Ian Fyfe conducted an unannounced inspection to Cameron's Cottage and interviewed Director Carmen McBride, staff member Natalie McBride, and staff member Tina Hines. All staff members interviewed by CI Fyfe were familiar with the reported concerns and provided similar information. On either May 8, 2023, or May 9, 2023, Ms. Natalie propped the infant and toddler door open while the children were present in the room. The door leads outside to the facility playground. Ms. Natalie did so in an attempt to "air out" the room after changing diapers. Ms. Carmen observed this happening and instructed Ms. Natalie and Ms. Hines not to do it again. This was a one-time incident.

On May 22, 2023, CI Fyfe conducted an interview with Parent A (Parent of Child A). On either May 9, 2023, or May 10, 2023, Parent A was picking up Child A when they saw the reported concerns. Ms. Natalie stated that she had the door propped open to air out the room. Child A was in a bouncer while the other two children were in their cribs.

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(A)1.

Caregivers shall not leave any child without competent adult supervision.

5 CSR 25-500.112(1)(A)

Birth Through Two (2) Years. Groups composed of mixed ages through two (2) years shall have no less than one (1) adult to four (4) children, with no more than eight (8) children in a group;

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On May 12, 2023, the Office of Childhood (OOC) received an allegation that Parent A (parent of Child A) was asked to stay in a classroom with four children while the staff member left. Parent A was left alone in the classroom. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Ian Fyfe has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence:

5 CSR 25-500.112(1)(A), which states the following: "Birth Through Two (2) Years. Groups composed of mixed ages through two (2) years shall have no less than one (1) adult to four (4) children, with no more than eight (8) children in a group;"

AND

5 CSR 25-500.182(1)(A)1., which states the following: "Caregivers shall not leave any child without competent adult supervision."

On May 18, 2023, Compliance Inspector (CI) Ian Fyfe conducted an unannounced inspection to Cameron's Cottage and interviewed Director Carmen McBride, staff member Natalie McBride, and staff member Tina Hines. Ms. Carmen and Ms. Natalie were familiar with the reported concerns and provided similar information. Ms. Hines was not present when the reported concerns occurred. On May 9, 2023, Ms. Natalie was standing in the doorway of the infant and toddler classroom with either Parent A (parent of Child A) or Parent B (grandparent of Child A) when she saw a bus arrive to drop off a child. Ms. Natalie asked the parent to stay in their classroom while she went to get the child from the bus. There were no other teachers in the room. Ms. Natalie had the resources available to have another staff member stay in her room for her as opposed to the parent but failed to do so.

On May 22, 2023, CI Fyfe conducted an interview with Parent A (Parent of Child A). On May 9, 2023, Parent A arrived at the facility to pick up Child A. Parent A was holding Child A and talking to Ms. Natalie when the bus arrived to drop off a child. Ms. Natalie saw the bus and asked Parent A to wait in the classroom while she went outside. Ms. Natalie did not tell Parent A exactly what she was doing before she left and there were no other teachers in the room. This was a onetime incident.

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(E)

Caregivers shall have knowledge of the needs of children and shall be sensitive to the capabilities, interests, and problems of children in care.

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(R)

Any person present at the facility during the hours in which child care is provided shall not present a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the children.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On May 12, 2023, the Office of Childhood (OOC) received an allegation that staff members are allowing unknown individuals to enter the facility through the infant and toddler room door. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Ian Fyfe has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence:

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(E), which states the following: "Caregivers shall have knowledge of the needs of children and shall be sensitive to the capabilities, interests, and problems of children in care."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(R), which states the following: "Any person present at the facility during the hours in which child care is provided shall not present a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the children."

On May 18, 2023, Compliance Inspector (CI) Ian Fyfe conducted an unannounced inspection to Cameron's Cottage and interviewed Director Carmen McBride, staff member Natalie McBride, and staff member Tina Hines. All staff members interviewed by CI Fyfe were familiar with the reported concerns and provided similar information. On an unknown date, Ms. Natalie's daughter and granddaughter, who are not employed by the facility, came to the facility to drop off food to Ms. Natalie. Ms. Natalie's daughter and granddaughter came through the door in the infant and toddler classroom that leads to the playground, meaning that the two individuals would have had to unlock the gate to the playground to gain access to the door. These are the only two people that have used the infant and toddler door as an entrance. Ms. Natalie was unaware that this was not allowed.

On May 22, 2023, CI Fyfe conducted an interview with Parent A (parent of Child A). Parent A informed CI Fyfe that Parent B (grandparent of Child A) was the one who was present at the facility when the reported concerns occurred.

On May 22, 2023, CI Fyfe conducted an interview with Parent B (grandparent of Child A). On the day of the reported concerns, Parent B saw a child on the playground, who they identified as Ms. Natalie's granddaughter, waving to the person in the car. Ms. Natalie came outside through the side door, grabbed the child, and brought them inside. Parent B then entered the facility and was in the classroom when Ms. Natalie's daughter entered the building through the same side door. Ms. Natalie's daughter and granddaughter stayed in the room for approximately forty-five minutes to an hour while Parent B was there.

VIOLATION(S)

5 CSR 25-600.020 (1)

Prior to the employment or presence of a child care staff member in a licensed, regulated, or registered child care facility not exempted by section 210.1080.13, RSMo, the child care provider shall request the results of a criminal background check for such child care staff member from the department.

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(P)

The child care provider shall conduct a Family Care Safety Registry screening prior to employment for any newly hired child care staff member who has a qualifying criminal background check result.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

On May 12, 2023, the Office of Childhood (OOC) received an allegation that a background check has not been completed on the owner's sister, Ms. Natalie. After conducting an investigation, Compliance Inspector (CI) Ian Fyfe has found this allegation to be substantiated based on the following evidence:

5 CSR 25-600.020 (1)., which states the following: "Prior to the employment or presence of a child care staff member in a licensed, regulated, or registered child care facility not exempted by section 210.1080.13, RSMo, the child care provider shall request the results of a criminal background check for such child care staff member from the department ."

AND

5 CSR 25-500.102(1)(P)., which states the following: "The child care provider shall conduct a Family Care Safety Registry screening prior to employment for any newly hired child care staff member who has a qualifying criminal background check result."

On May 18, 2023, Compliance Inspector (CI) Ian Fyfe conducted an unannounced inspection to Cameron's Cottage and interviewed Director Carmen McBride. Ms. Carmen informed CI Fyfe that she fired all but one of her staff members on May 5, 2023, due to issues she found with the previous staff members. Six of the staff members present during the inspection, out of a possible seven, including Natalie McBride, are temporary workers and do not have background checks or a family care safety registry screening. All six staff members were present in the classrooms with the children. None of the temporary workers have previous experience working in a daycare setting but have worked in in-home daycares.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE

The facility shall ensure that all employees have a comprehensive background screening completed prior to a person's employment and/or presence within the child care facility. The comprehensive background screening must include verification of fingerprinting of the individual and a requested screening via the Family Care Safety Registry. The facility shall submit a signed statement agreeing to ensure this requirement is followed. A copy of the signed statement shall be provided to the Child Care Compliance Section.

COMPLETED (Y/N)

Yes

COMPLETED DATE

7/19/2023

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

7/19/2023

DISPOSITION

SUBSTANTIATED

DISPOSITION DATE

7/11/2023

APPROVING SUPERVISOR

CHRISCO, MARLA L