



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF CHILD WELFARE LICENSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL  
DIRECTOR

April 28, 2021

Jennifer Stevens  
Samaritas - MID MI  
Ste 200  
729 W. Michigan Ave.  
Jackson, MI 49201

RE: License #: CB380201255  
Investigation #: 2021C0207011  
Samaritas - MID MI

Dear Ms. Stevens:

Attached is the Special Investigation Report for the above referenced facility. Due to the violations identified in the report, a written corrective action plan is required. The corrective action plan is due 15 days from the date of this letter and must include the following:

- How compliance with each rule will be achieved.
- Who is directly responsible for implementing the corrective action for each violation.
- Specific time frames for each violation as to when the correction will be completed or implemented.
- How continuing compliance will be maintained once compliance is achieved.
- For repeat violations, identify why the previous plan was unsuccessful.
- The signature of the responsible party and a date.

If you desire technical assistance in addressing these issues, please feel free to contact me. In any event, the corrective action plan is due within 15 days. Failure to submit an acceptable corrective action plan will result in disciplinary action.

Please note that violations of any licensing rules are also violations of the MISEP and your contract.

Please review the enclosed documentation for accuracy and contact me with any questions. In the event that I am not available, and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the local office at (866) 685-0006.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kari Muntean', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kari Muntean, Licensing Consultant  
MDHHS\Division of Child Welfare Licensing  
22 Center Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
(734) 395-0920

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF CHILD WELFARE LICENSING  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

**I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

<b>License #:</b>	CB380201255
<b>Investigation #:</b>	2021C0207011
<b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>	03/10/2021
<b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b>	03/10/2021
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	05/09/2021
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	Samaritas
<b>Licensee Address:</b>	8131 East Jefferson Avenue Detroit, MI 48214-2691
<b>Licensee Telephone #:</b>	(989) 832-3432
<b>Administrator:</b>	Jennifer Stevens, Administrator
<b>Licensee Designee:</b>	Laura Mitchell, Designee
<b>Name of Facility:</b>	Samaritas - MID MI
<b>Facility Address:</b>	Ste 200 729 W. Michigan Ave. Jackson, MI 49201
<b>Facility Telephone #:</b>	(517) 789-6444
<b>Original Issuance Date:</b>	01/22/1999
<b>License Status:</b>	REGULAR
<b>Effective Date:</b>	07/03/2020
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	07/02/2022
<b>Capacity:</b>	Unknown
<b>Program Type:</b>	CHILD PLACING AGENCY, PRIVATE

## II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
On 3/3/21, there was a child death in an unlicensed relative home. The agency had foster care responsibility and was required to provide supervision and monitoring of the case, including notification of the death. Log ID 82776012	No
Additional Findings: The agency did not document having provided the relative caregiver with the required foster parent information timely. The documentation in the file was not complete.	Yes
Additional Findings: The agency completed the 3130 A about one month late.	Yes
Additional Findings: The agency did not properly complete the required Placement Exception requests.	Yes
Additional Findings: The Initial Service Plan was completed and approved late.	Yes

## III. METHODOLOGY

03/10/2021	Special Investigation Intake 2021C0207011
03/10/2021	Special Investigation Initiated - Letter Initial notification of this incident occurred on 03/04/21 when the Chief Administrator called to advise of Child A's death. DCWL opened this as an intake on 03/10/21 and it was assigned for investigation.
03/10/2021	Contact - Document Sent Emails exchanged with Chief Administrator.
03/10/2021	Contact - Document Received MiSACWIS case information reviewed when CA advised of this incident, 03/03/21. Reviewed again 03/10/2021. BITS agency information reviewed 03/10/2021.
03/12/2021	Contact - Document Received Email from CA.

03/19/2021	Contact - Telephone call made Left message for the Foster Care Worker (FCW) regarding investigation. Interviewed the Foster Care Supervisor (FC Supervisor).
03/19/2021	Contact - Telephone call made Call to Chief Administrator.
03/24/2021	Contact - Document Sent Email to Chief Administrator.
03/24/2021	Contact - Telephone call made Telephone interview with the FCW.
03/24/2021	Contact - Document Received Emails from CA.
04/07/2021	Contact - Document Sent Email to CA.
04/15/2021	Contact - Document Received Case information reviewed in MiSACWIS.
04/19/2021	Contact – Document Received Case information reviewed in MiSACWIS.
04/28/2021	Exit Conference Via Teams meeting with Chief Administrator, Program Manager 1, and Program Manager 2.

## **ALLEGATION:**

On 3/3/21, there was a child death in an unlicensed relative home. The agency had foster care responsibility and was required to provide supervision and monitoring of the case, including notification of the death.

## **INVESTIGATION:**

This incident was reported directly by the agency Chief Administrator on 03/04/21. MDHHS was also contacted, and this was logged under ID 82776012, but not assigned for investigation.

I interviewed the Chief Administrator on 03/04/21, via phone, when she called to advise that Child A, who was almost 8 months old, had died while in an unlicensed relative placement. It was reported that the relative brought Child A to the relative's

mother's home. Child A fell asleep and when checked on, and was not responsive. The Chief Administrator reported that the agency had case responsibility since January 2021 but was in process of transferring it back to MDHHS when the child died. It was reported that MDHHS was completing most of the documentation but was working with their agency for historical details. The Chief Administrator reported that Child A passed away on 03/03/21 and noted that she was notified about 4:30-5:00pm that evening. In subsequent email contacts with the Chief Administrator, she provided the contact information for the Foster Care Worker (FCW) and Foster Care Supervisor (FC Supervisor). The Chief Administrator also clarified via email, on 03/24/21, that the case had transferred back to MDHHS earlier in the day on 03/03/21, prior to the child passing and therefore, had done much of the reporting. The Chief Administrator said that her understanding was that the report of death to MDHHS was made about 2:50pm. She did not initially report the death to DCWL because the case had already transferred back to MDHHS earlier that day and they no longer had responsibility. The Chief Administrator said that the following day she thought she should contact me to let me know regardless.

I completed a phone interview the Foster Care Supervisor (FC Supervisor) on 03/19/21. The FC Supervisor reviewed the case and reported no concerns with the relative caregiver or her mother. The agency was aware that the relative's mother was providing substitute care. The FC Supervisor said that DHHS had not picked up the case for investigation. The child had no known medical issues per the FC Supervisor, who also reported that the Foster Care Worker had discussed the child's health history with the mother and nothing of concern was reported by her. The FC Supervisor said that the child received a timely medical and it was uploaded to MiSACWIS. The medical exam noted no issues and the physician met with the relative caregiver. The FC Supervisor was asked about some of the casework observed to be late in MiSACWIS, and he reported that some, notably the Initial Relative Home Study, was late due to the Foster Care Worker being new. The FC Supervisor said that there was some initial confusion on who was going to complete it, and he ended up directing the Foster Care Worker to do so.

I interviewed the Foster Care Worker (FCW) via phone on 03/24/21. The FCW said that she is a new worker with six months experience. The FCW reviewed the case and reported that she was assigned the case 12/30/20. The FCW reported that she was in the home often due to visits and had no concerns with the care provided by the relative. The FCW also said that she had met the relative's mother and did not have concerns with her. The FCW said that the relative and the relative's mother had clearances completed. The FCW reported that she was not aware of any medical issues that the child had and noted that he had a well child exam completed timely. The FCW further reported that she spoke with the mother and asked about any medical concerns, to which the mother reported none outside of the child having tested positive at birth for substances. The FCW acknowledged that some case work was completed late. She reported that initially there was confusion as to whether she or the licensing worker were going to complete the Relative Home Study 3130A. The FCW was ultimately directed to complete it and it was late.

Documentation reviewed as part of this investigation is as follows with applicable information noted:

- Agency case assignment was verified in MiSACWIS.
- MiSACWIS verification of DHHS intake time was observed to be 3/03/21 at 3:13pm.
- Well Child Exam for Child A, dated 01/26/21.
- MiSACWIS placement information for Child A reviewed. Placed in the relative home 12/30/20. No Placement Exception for over five children in the home.
- MiSACWIS social work contacts for visits with the child were reviewed.
- Initial Placement Outline, completed by Worker 2 and approved by Supervisor 2, dated 01/28/21. Most prompts completed as 'unknown.'
- Initial Service Plan, completed 02/04/21, signed 03/04/21 by the FCW and the FC Supervisor.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.12415</b>	<b>Incident reporting policy.</b>
	(2) The policy shall require that the agency immediately notifies all of the following entities of the death of a foster child: (a) The child's parents. (b) The referring agency. (c) The department licensing authority. (d) The lawyer guardian ad litem and court, as applicable.
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	The agency is compliant with the rule as the case had already been transferred back to MDHHS at the time of the child's passing and they were no longer responsible to make the required notifications. The agency worked with the local DHHS office who had accepted the case back after the incident.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

## **ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:**

The agency did not document having provided the relative caregiver with the required foster parent information timely. The documentation in the file was not complete.

## **INVESTIGATION:**

During the course of this investigation, a cursory review of case information was completed inclusive of required information being provided to the caregiver. The agency's Initial Placement Outline, completed by Worker 2 and approved by

Supervisor 2, dated 01/28/21, was reviewed and most of the prompts for required information were completed as “unknown”. The information was dated 01/28/21, which was almost one month after the child was placed in the home. The place for documentation that the information was provided to the caregiver was left blank.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.12417</b>	<b>Foster parent information.</b>
	<p>(1) An agency shall provide a foster parent with all of the following information before the placement or replacement of a child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(c) Available known information about the child’s health.</li> <li>(d) Any known history of abuse or neglect of the child.</li> <li>(e) All known emotional and psychological factors relating to the care of the child.</li> <li>(f) All known behavioral problems of the child.</li> <li>(g) Circumstances necessitating placement or replacement of the child.</li> <li>(h) Any other known information to enable the foster parent to provide a stable, safe, and healthy environment for the foster child and the foster family, including information about siblings who do not reside in the foster home.</li> <li>(i) Name of assigned social service worker.</li> </ul> <p>(2) For an emergency placement, if any of the information specified in subrule (1)(a) to (h) of this rule is not available at the time of placement, then the agency shall provide information to the foster parent within 7 calendar days of the placement.</p>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	The agency is in violation of the rule as the required information was not provided to the relative foster parent at the time of placement or within the seven calendar days after.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>

## **ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:**

The Initial Service Plan was completed and approved late.

## **INVESTIGATION:**

During the course of this investigation, a cursory review of case information was completed inclusive of the Initial Service Plan. The Initial Service Plan was observed to cover the period 12/30/20 through 01/28/21 and was completed by the FCW on 02/04/21. The plan was reviewed by the FC Supervisor and returned to the FCW for



corrections on 02/11/21. The FCW resubmitted the revised plan to the FC Supervisor on 02/28/21, and the FC Supervisor approved the plan in MiSACWIS on 03/04/21.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.12418</b>	<b>Development of service plans.</b>
	(2) An agency shall complete written service plans for each child and parent or parents, as follows: (a) Within 30 calendar days from removal from the home.
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	The agency is in violation as the Initial Service Plan was completed late.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>

## **ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:**

The agency completed the 3130 A about one month late.

## **INVESTIGATION:**

During the course of this investigation, a cursory review of case information was completed inclusive of the Initial Relative Home Study. The agency was assigned the case 12/30/20 and did not complete the study until 02/24/21.

<b>APPLICABLE POLICY</b>	
<b>FOM 722-03B</b>	<b>RELATIVE ENGAGEMENT AND PLACEMENT</b>
	<p>The DHS-3130A, Relative Placement Home Study, is a comprehensive home assessment that considers multiple domains in a prospective caregiver's life. The Relative Placement Home Study allows caseworkers to identify strengths and barriers that may impact a child's placement. The Relative Placement Home Study must be completed within the timeframes described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For emergency placements, within 30 calendar days of the child's placement in the relative home.</li> <li>• For planned placement changes, prior to placement in the relative home, but within 30 calendar days of the written request.</li> </ul>

<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	The agency is in violation as the Initial Relative Home Study was completed almost one month late.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>

## **ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:**

The agency did not complete the required Placement Exception request.

## **INVESTIGATION:**

During the course of this investigation, a cursory review of case information was completed inclusive of placement information. The relative caregiver was noted to have four children of her own when she took placement of Child A and his sister. A Placement Exception Request was not completed as required for more than five children in the home.

<b>APPLICABLE POLICY</b>	
<b>FOM 722-03E</b>	<b>PLACEMENT EXCEPTION REQUESTS AND APPROVALS</b>
	<p>Caseworkers must complete a placement exception request (PER) when there is a need to waive placement standards to maintain sibling and caregiver bonds or to meet the medical, emotional, and psychological needs of children in care. PERs must be completed, reviewed, and approved in MiSACWIS. For placement standards and requirements, see FOM 722-03, Placement Selection and Standards.</p> <p><b>PLACEMENT LIMITATIONS</b></p> <p>A placement exception request (PER) must be completed if placement will result in any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than five total children, including the foster family or relative caregiver's biological and/or adopted children.</li> </ul>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	The agency is in violation of the policy as there was no placement exception request in MiSACWIS for the relative caregiver having over five children in the home.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>

#### IV. RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings of this investigation, I recommend no change to the current license status. This recommendation is contingent on the agency submitting an acceptable and timely corrective action plan.



April 20, 2021

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Kari Muntean  
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



April 26, 2021

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Claudia Triestram  
Area Manager

Date