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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE
LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

April 12, 2022

Sherry Thomas-Cloud
Family & Children Services
1608 Lake Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

RE: License #: CB390201118
Investigation #: 2022C0112009
Family & Children Services Inc.

Dear Ms. Thomas-Cloud:

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.
- 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 area manager at (616) 204-6992.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Holly K. Austin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Holly Austin, Licensing Consultant
MDHHS\Division of Child Welfare Licensing
Suite 200
121 Franklin Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(269) 330-7082

enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	CB390201118
Investigation #:	2022C0112009
Complaint Receipt Date:	03/17/2022
Investigation Initiation Date:	03/17/2022
Report Due Date:	05/16/2022
Licensee Name:	Family & Children Services
Licensee Address:	1608 Lake Street Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Licensee Telephone #:	Unknown
Administrator:	Sherry Thomas-Cloud, Designee
Licensee Designee:	Sherry Thomas-Cloud, Designee
Name of Facility:	Family & Children Services Inc.
Facility Address:	1608 Lake Street Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Facility Telephone #:	(269) 344-0202
Original Issuance Date:	03/01/1991
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	02/13/2021
Expiration Date:	02/12/2023
Capacity:	Unknown
Program Type:	CHILD PLACING AGENCY, PRIVATE

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Agency staff member returned youth to parent on 1/07/22 without a court order. The youth was later moved from the father's home to a foster home without a removal order. The foster home's licensed was closed when this occurred.	Yes

III. METHODOLOGY

03/17/2022	Special Investigation Intake 2022C0112009
03/17/2022	Special Investigation Initiated - Letter Email to complainant
03/18/2022	Contact - Document Sent Email exchange with agency staff to schedule on-site interviews
03/24/2022	Inspection Completed On-site
03/24/2022	Contact - Face to Face Pre-exit meeting
03/24/2022	Inspection Completed-BCAL Sub. Compliance

ALLEGATION:

Agency staff member returned youth to parent on 1/07/22 without a court order. The youth was later moved from the father's home to a foster home without a removal order. The foster home's licensed was closed when this occurred.

INVESTIGATION:

Interviews

On 3/17/2022 I received a complaint filed through the on-line complaint allegation system alleging that Foster Care Worker returned Youth A to the father, Parent A on 01/07/2022 without a court order. In the meantime, the foster family with whom Youth A had been previously placed, closed their license. Parent A relapsed and Foster Care Worker removed Youth A from Parent A, without a removal order, and placed Youth A with Foster Family whose license was voluntarily closed on 01/23/2022. Foster Family's license reopened on 02/04/2022. The concern is that the child was returned to the father without an order into an illegal placement. Then the child was removed from that father again without an order and placed into an unrelated, unlicensed home without an order.

On 3/24/2022 I interviewed Foster Care Worker, Supervisor, and Program Manager in person at their agency.

Foster Care Worker reported that at the August and November 2021 court hearings, discussions were had regarding reunification with Parent A. During the November court hearing, discussion took place about returning to Parent A once he obtained

childcare and family reunification services were established. Foster Care Worker stated that once these two things were achieved, Youth A was moved from Foster Parents' home and placed with Parent A. After Youth A was moved, Foster Parents voluntarily closed their license. Foster Care Worker stated Parent A had a substance abuse relapse while Youth A was in his care, so Foster Care Worker contacted the court regarding issuing a new removal order to which the court responded that no order was needed since there was no order replacing Youth A with Parent A. Foster Care Worker stated she didn't realize until this time that the November court order stated an Order as Prayed was required prior to returning Youth A to Parent A. Foster Care Worker reported the court referee told her that the placement with Parent A would be considered an extended parenting time. Foster Care Worker reported Youth A was again removed from Parent A and replaced with Foster Family, who did not have a license to provide care for foster children. Foster Care Worker reported when she spoke to the court about this placement, they stated that they would consider the placement to be a "bridge" placement.

Program Manager stated that placing the youth with the unlicensed foster parent was in the best interest of the child rather than placing him with a licensed family he did not know, which was why that placement decision was made. Program Manager and Supervisor reported that this situation was a "learning opportunity" for their agency as this isn't anything they have previously encountered.

Documents Reviewed

On 4/4/2022 I reviewed the following in Youth A's MiSACWIS case record:

- Placement History
 - 5/20/2021 – 1/7/2022 Foster Family
 - 1/7/2022 - 1/26/2022 Parent A
 - 1/26/2022 – Foster Family (unlicensed)
 - 2/4/2022 – Foster Family (licensed)
- Court Orders
 - Hearing date: 8/17/2021 court ordered Youth A remain in the care and supervision of the department. Referee signed 8/17/2021, Judge signed 8/19/2021.
 - Hearing date: 11/8/2021 court ordered Youth A remain in the care and supervision of the department. The order also included the following narrative, "The minor child may be returned to the home of the father on an Order as Prayed with Intensive Home-Based services and written GAL approval." Referee signed 11/8/2021, Judge signed 11/9/2021.
 - Hearing date: 3/1/2022 court ordered Youth A remain in the care and supervision of the department. Referee signed 3/1/2022, Judge signed 3/2/2022.
- Social Work Contacts with Parent A post replacement

- 1/13/2022 Foster Care Worker home visit with Parent A & Youth A, worker reviewed safety plan and conducted FTM with Parent A.
- 1/20/2022 Foster Care Worker home visit with Parent A & Youth A, Parent admitted to violating safety plan by having Youth A's mother at the home.
- 2/2/2022 Phone call between Parent A and Foster Care Worker, Parent A admitted drug relapse.

While reviewing social work contacts, it was noted that a conference had been held regarding an allegation received by DHHS. I reviewed the allegation dated 1/21/2022 which stated Parent A may be using methamphetamines while Youth A is in his care and also allowing Youth A's mother, who is not to have any contact with Youth A, into Parent A's home regularly.

Additionally, it was noted that the discussions Foster Care Worker reported having with the court about the placement were not documented in MiSACWIS.

On 4/4/2022 I reviewed the Foster Family's case record in MiSACWIS which documented the following:

- License closed voluntarily on 1/23/2022
- License re-opened 2/4/2022

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.12404	Placement.
	(1) An agency shall only place a child with an adult who is legally related to the child, is a legal custodian, or in a licensed foster home, except as permitted in R 400.12709.
ANALYSIS:	Foster Care Worker placed Youth A in the home of Parent A despite not having legal authority to make the placement. Youth A was placed in Parent A's home for 19 days during which Parent A admitted to violating an established safety plan and drug use. Foster Care Worker removed Youth A from Parent A and placed Youth A with an unlicensed foster family. Youth A remained in an unlicensed placement for 9 days until the foster home was relicensed.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Upon receipt of an acceptable CAP, I recommend no change in the license status.

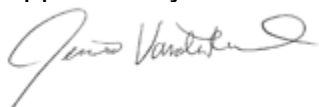


April 4, 2022

Holly Austin
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



April 6, 2022

Jessica VandenHeuvel
Area Manager

Date