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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

December 28, 2020

Andrea Seyka
St Vincent Catholic Charities-Child Welfare
2800 West Willow
Lansing, MI 48917

RE: License #: CB330201019
Investigation #: 2021C0112007
St Vincent Catholic Charities-Child Welfare

Dear Ms. Seyka:

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.
- Indicate how continuing compliance will be maintained once compliance is achieved.
- Be signed and dated.

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 (616)552-3662.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Holly K. Austin".

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**

**THIS REPORT CONTAINS QUOTED PROFANITY AND/OR SEXUALLY EXPLICIT
LANGUAGE.**

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	CB330201019
Investigation #:	2021C0112007
Complaint Receipt Date:	11/30/2020
Investigation Initiation Date:	12/02/2020
Report Due Date:	01/29/2021
Licensee Name:	St Vincent Catholic Charities
Licensee Address:	2800 West Willow Lansing, MI 48917
Licensee Telephone #:	(517) 394-9450
Administrator:	Andrea Seyka, Designee
Licensee Designee:	Andrea Seyka, Designee
Name of Facility:	St Vincent Catholic Charities-Child Welfare
Facility Address:	2800 West Willow Lansing, MI 48917
Facility Telephone #:	(517) 323-4734
Original Issuance Date:	03/01/1991
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	04/17/2019
Expiration Date:	04/16/2021
Capacity:	Unknown
Program Type:	CHILD PLACING AGENCY, PRIVATE

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Agency Worker was aware an adult was residing in the same foster home as a foster youth and failed to do a background check on the adult. It is alleged that the man is being investigated for sexually abusing the child.	Yes

III. METHODOLOGY

11/30/2020	Special Investigation Intake 2021C0112007
12/01/2020	Contact - Document Sent Email sent to agency LD/CA
12/01/2020	Contact - Document Received Email Received from complainant with availability on 12/4/2020
12/02/2020	Special Investigation Initiated - Letter Email to complainant to schedule a phone call
12/03/2020	Inspection Completed On-site Phone discussion with the acting CA. This was not don on-site due to the current work from home orders resulting in no one being at the office
12/07/2020	Contact - Document Sent Email sent to agency supervisor
12/07/2020	Contact - Document Received Email rec'd from agency supervisor with availability
12/08/2020	Contact - Document Sent Email exchanges with agency supervisor to coordinate interview
12/08/2020	Contact - Face to Face Interview conducted with agency supervisor and adoption program manager via TEAMS
12/08/2020	Contact - Document Sent Email sent to DHHS Worker

12/08/2020	Contact - Telephone call made Discussion with foster care worker via TEAMS
12/09/2020	Contact - Telephone call received Phone interview with DHHS Worker 1 regarding his investigation.
12/10/2020	Contact - Document Sent Email sent to PM requesting current contact info for Relative Caregiver
12/10/2020	Contact - Telephone call made LM for FC Worker
12/10/2020	Contact - Telephone call received Interviewed FC Worker
12/10/2020	Contact - Document Received Email rec'd from PM with current phone number for relative caregiver.
12/15/2020	Contact - Document Received Received safety plan from agency supervisor
12/17/2020	Inspection Completed-BCAL Sub. Compliance

ALLEGATION:

Agency Worker was aware an adult was residing in the same foster home as a foster youth and failed to do a background check on the adult. It is alleged that the man is being investigated for sexually abusing the child.

INVESTIGATION:

On 12/3/2020 I interviewed the complainant by phone. She reported that she became aware of this concern when a complaint came into DHHS regarding the sexual abuse of a foster child placed in an unlicensed relative caregiver's home. The complainant stated that Youth A was placed with his aunt, Relative A and, at some point, Caregiver B moved into Relative A's home. Relative A caught Caregiver B sexually abusing the child in the home. The complainant reported that she believed Youth A's foster care case manager was aware that Caregiver B had moved into the home, but no background checks were completed. Relative A left the home with Youth A and went to stay with her daughter, but her daughter would not allow workers access to her home, so Relative A and Youth A were supposed to stay at a hotel. Relative A instead returned to her home and when a worker called Relative A's phone number, Caregiver B answered. The complainant believed a safety plan was in place but was unsure if it was followed. Youth A was then removed from Relative A's care and placed in an unrelated foster home.

On 12/3/2020 I interviewed Administrator 1 by phone. Administrator 1 stated that she has recently been appointed as the Chief Administrator is trying to get an understanding of the series of events. She stated that she had minimal information and doesn't know when Caregiver B moved into the home or if the worker was aware that he had. She stated that the worker is currently on leave pending this investigation and that the worker's supervisor was terminated from her employment in early November for unrelated reasons.

On 12/8/2020 I interviewed Program Manager (PM) 1 and Program Manager 2 via Microsoft Teams. PM 1 became FC Worker 1's supervisor in early November of this year. She stated that after the DHHS complaint was received alleging the sexual abuse of Youth A an internal meeting was held during which PM 1 asked FC Worker 1 if Caregiver B had any criminal history. FC Worker 1 stated at that time that she had previously dropped off "the paperwork" to Caregiver B to complete a background check, but he never returned it, so no background checks were completed. PM 1 stated that there is no paperwork to complete in order to run background checks, rather the worker need to provide the name and information to the administrative assistant who can run an ICHAT check within an hour. PM 2 stated that Relative 1 was in the process of adoption but had waived licensure. She stated that an updated home study was completed in August at which time a licensing staff, an adoption staff, and a foster care staff were present and there was no indication at that time that Caregiver B was living in the home.

On 12/9/2020 I interviewed DHHS Worker 1 by phone. He stated that he received an investigation regarding the alleged sexual abuse of Youth A on 11/21/2020 then received an additional allegation last week stating that the relative caregiver was not following the established safety plan. He reported that he interviewed FC Worker 1 who told him she knew that Caregiver B had been living in the home for about a month. DHHS Worker 1 reported that Caregiver B's name is on the lease and his name is on the mailbox. He reported that Relative A reported that Caregiver B moved into the home after she sustained a leg injury to help her care for the child and that he had been in the home for 4 months.

On 12/10/2020 I interviewed FC Worker 1 by phone. She reported that the first time she heard about Caregiver B was in late March. She stated that Relative A had identified Caregiver B as a friend or her caregiver, at different times. During early to mid-November, she had suspicions that Caregiver B had moved into the home because she noticed Relative A's personal belongings in the living room. When asked about it, Relative A stated that she was just moving things around. FC Worker 1 did see some AXE body spray and a man's shoes in Relative A's bedroom. When she asked Relative A about these items, she stated that Caregiver B had left them there and would be retrieving them after his work shift. FC Worker 1 reported that her understanding was that Caregiver B was at Relative A's home for a couple of hours during the day to help clean areas Relative A couldn't reach and other household chores, but didn't help with the care of Youth A. After this home visit, FC

Worker 1 asked the licensing supervisor and the assigned adoption worker to keep an eye on this. FC Worker 1 stated that she could typically only coordinate home visits with Relative A in the evenings which is when Caregiver B allegedly worked. FC Worker 1 reported that she asked Supervisor 2 about running background checks on Caregiver B in March. Supervisor 2 told FC Worker 1 that it was not a high priority because of prudent parenting standards, but instructed her to complete a central registry check. FC Worker 1 stated that she dropped off a central registry clearance form for Caregiver B to fill out. She couldn't remember the date she dropped this off, but she never received the form back. She stated that she asked Relative A multiple times for Caregiver B's birthday, but Relative A did not remember it. FC Worker 1 stated that they can run an ICHAT once they receive the information, but she never got a birthday, so she never did this. She did state that she ran a sex offender registry check a couple of months ago but could not remember the date or if this was documented.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.12309	Records check.
	(1) An agency shall, upon receipt of an application, request the department of state police to conduct both a criminal history check and a criminal record check through the federal bureau of investigation for applicants. The agency shall also request the department to conduct a criminal history check on all persons residing in the home over 18 years of age. Additional checks shall pertain to previous licenses, and substantiated child abuse and neglect records for all applicants and persons residing in the home 18 years of age or over in Michigan and in all states where the applicant has resided in the 5 years preceding the application.
ANALYSIS:	FC Worker 1 did not complete background checks on Caregiver B despite suspecting that he lived in the home with Relative A.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:

INVESTIGATION:

On 12/8/2020 I interviewed Program Manager (PM) 1 via Microsoft Teams. PM 1 stated that a safety plan was put into place requiring that Relative A leave the home she shared with Caregiver B and stay with her daughter, that Caregiver B was to have no contact with Youth A, and that Caregiver B was to leave the home. Relative A ended up not being able to stay at her daughter's due to her daughter refusing to allow any workers into her home. Caregiver B was then instructed to stay at a hotel

with Youth A. PM 1 instructed FC Worker 1 to make face to face contact with Youth A and Relative A at the hotel, but FC Worker 1 made her face to face contact in a parking lot somewhere.

On 12/10/2020 I interviewed FC Worker 1 FC Worker 1 reported that on 11/24/2020 her current supervisor, PM 1 told her that Relative A needed to go to a hotel with Youth A. FC Worker 1 stated that she couldn't get a hold of Relative A that night, but left her message stating that she needed to go to a hotel. FC Worker 1 was able to reach Relative A the next morning by phone at which time Relative A agreed to go to a hotel with Youth A. FC Worker 1 stated that she needed to verify Youth A's wellbeing, so Relative A brought him to the agency parking lot, where FC Worker 1 met with them and saw his items in the car. Relative A reported that they were going to the hotel. The agency was closed on Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving, so FC Worker 1 followed up by phone with Relative A on the following Monday, 11/30/20. Relative A reported that she had not gone to the hotel but would go after the phone call. FC Worker 1 was able to verify through a visit that they were at a hotel that day. The next day, FC Worker 1 drove by the hotel and saw Relative A's car still there. The following day, FC Worker 1 was trying to reach Relative A and when she didn't answer her phone, used an alternate number given by Relative A. When she called that number, Caregiver B answered and stated that Relative A and Youth A were at the laundromat but would be returning to the apartment within the hour.

On 12/5/2020, PM 1 sent me an emailed copy of the safety plan provided to Relative A by FC Worker 1 as this has not been uploaded into Youth A's file. The safety plan was dated 11/24/2020 and documented the requirements as reported by PM 1 and FC Worker 1 and at the end of the plan FC Worker 1 wrote that she would be visiting Relative A and Youth A on 11/25/2020 "in whatever living arrangement ends up playing out."

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.12206	Staff qualifications
	(1) An agency shall require a staff member who has ongoing contact with children or parents to be a person who has the ability, experience, education, and training to perform the duties assigned.

ANALYSIS:	FC Worker 1 did not demonstrate the ability to perform the functions of her assigned duties when she was instructed by her supervisor to visit Youth A and Relative A to verify that they had left the home, which FC Worker 1 agreed to do, but instead saw the youth in the parking lot of her office. Subsequently, it was discovered that the relative had not stayed at a hotel, as she was instructed to do.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that, upon receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan, no change be made to the license of this private child placing agency.



December 22, 2020

Holly Austin
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



December 28, 2020

Claudia Triestram
Area Manager

Date