



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

REDACTED REPORT

July 26, 2023

Bonnie Clark
4315 East Snow Road
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

RE: License #: DF110413076
Investigation #: 2023D0298009
Rae of Sunshine Childcare

Dear Bonnie Clark:

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing division received information regarding your facility that related to licensing rules or law. The information was related to the following:

R 400.1903(1)(g) Licensee responsibilities.
R 400.1903(5) Licensee responsibilities.
R 400.1911(1) Care; supervision; children.

The details of the information are in the attached report. To investigate:

- I interviewed the licensee, parents, and the Berrien County Department of Health and Human Services worker.
- I completed an on-site inspection on the following date: 03/23/2023.

As a result of this investigation, I found the following violation(s):

R 400.1903(1)(g) Licensee responsibilities.

I recommend no change to the current license status.

The special investigation report is attached. Due to the violation(s) identified in the report, a written corrective action plan was required. On 04/20/2023, you submitted an acceptable verbal corrective action plan, when you asked that your child care license be closed.

During this special investigation:	Yes	No
A rule or law violation was found and a serious injury or death occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A rule or law violation was found and abuse and/or neglect of a child occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>


You will be sent two copies of this report. One is **not for public disclosure** and one is a **redacted report**.

- The report marked **not for public disclosure** is for your records only. This copy may contain legally protected information. It must not be placed in your licensing notebook.

The report marked **redacted report** may have some legally protected information blacked out. The **redacted report** and any related corrective action plans must be placed in your licensing notebook. The **redacted report** and any related corrective action plans will be online for parents to review under the [Statewide Search for Licensed Child Care Centers and Homes](#).

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 (517) 284-9730.

Sincerely,



Tiara McKay, Licensing Consultant
 Child Care Licensing Bureau
 611 W. Ottawa Street
 PO Box 30837
 Lansing, MI 48909
 (269) 615-5758

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DF110413076
Investigation #:	2023D0298009
Complaint Receipt Date:	03/21/2023
Investigation Initiation Date:	03/21/2023
Report Due Date:	05/20/2023
Licensee Name:	Bonnie Clark
Licensee Address:	4315 East Snow Road Berrien Springs, MI 49103
Licensee Telephone #:	(269) 235-2496
Administrator:	N/A
Licensee Designee:	N/A
Name of Facility:	Rae of Sunshine Childcare
Facility Address:	4315 East Snow Road Berrien Springs, MI 49103
Facility Telephone #:	(269) 235-2496
Original Issuance Date:	09/15/2022
License Status:	ORIGINAL
Effective Date:	09/15/2022
Expiration Date:	03/14/2023
Capacity:	6
Program Type:	CHILD CARE FAMILY HOME (CAPACITY 1-6)

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Bonnie Clark did not provide appropriate care or supervision when her children, Minor Household Member (MHM) 1 and MHM 2, were [REDACTED] in the child care home by [REDACTED] Household Member and by MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] might have occurred when child care children were present in the home.	No
Additional Findings	Yes

III. METHODOLOGY

03/21/2023	Special Investigation Intake – 2023D0298009
03/20/2023	Special Investigation Initiated – Telephone call made to Bonnie Clark.
03/20/2023	Contact – Telephone call made to [REDACTED]
03/20/2023	Contact – Telephone call made to [REDACTED]
03/20/2023	Contact – Telephone call received from [REDACTED]
03/21/2023	Contact – Telephone call received from [REDACTED]
03/21/2023	Contact – Telephone call made to Bonnie Clark.
03/21/2023	Contact – Text messages received from Bonnie Clark, including Child Information Records.
03/21/2023	Contact – Texted Child Information Records to [REDACTED].
03/21/2023	Contact – Telephone call made to [REDACTED]
03/21/2023	Contact – Telephone call made to Bonnie Clark.
03/21/2023	Contact – Email sent to [REDACTED]

03/22/2023	Contact – Telephone call made to Child A’s Mother with [REDACTED]
03/22/2023	Contact – Telephone call made to Child B’s Mother with [REDACTED].
03/22/2023	Contact – Telephone call made to Child C’s Mother with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] left a voice mail message requesting a return call.
03/22/2023	Contact – Email received from [REDACTED]. Email included [REDACTED] report.
03/22/2023	Contact – Email received from [REDACTED]
03/23/2023	Inspection Completed On-site with [REDACTED] from approximately 9:15-11:15 am. Interviewed Bonnie Clark.
03/24/2023	Contact – Emails received from [REDACTED]. Emails included the police report and notes on her interview with Child C’s Mother.
04/10/2023	Contact – Email from [REDACTED] with notes on her interview with Adult Household Member.
04/12/2023	Contact – Pre-dispositional conference with [REDACTED]
04/13/2023	Contact – Email from [REDACTED]
04/17/2023	Contact – Voice mail message received from Bonnie Clark.
04/19/2023	Contact – Text message received from Bonnie Clark.
04/20/2023	Contact – Telephone call made to Bonnie Clark.
07/18/2023	Contact – Telephone call made to Bonnie Clark. Telephone was no longer in service.
07/18/2023	Contact – Email to Bonnie Clark requesting contact.
07/24/2023	Exit conference with Bonnie Clark via email.

ALLEGATION: Bonnie Clark did not provide appropriate care or supervision when her children, Minor Household Member (MHM) 1 and MHM 2, were [REDACTED] in the child care home by [REDACTED] Household Member (AHM) and by MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] might have occurred when child care children were present in the home.

INVESTIGATION: I placed a telephone call to Bonnie Clark on 03/20/2023 to inquire as to her schedule, so that I could conduct a routine on-site inspection. Bonnie Clark informed me that she was closed due to current involvement with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and law enforcement. On 02/07/2023 her daughter, MHM 1, told her that [REDACTED]. Bonnie Clark immediately left the house with her children and called DHHS and the police. DHHS told her to take MHM 1 to the [REDACTED] for a [REDACTED] that day. While at the [REDACTED], MHM 1 took Bonnie Clark's face in her hands and said, "my name [REDACTED] you are my mommy... we're here to help MHM 1, who's been [REDACTED]. It should be noted that MHM 1's name is not [REDACTED]. When MHM 1 used her own name, she referred to her stuffed animal that was with her, calling the stuffed animal by her name. Bonnie Clark remembered the following day that MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] calls MHM 1 [REDACTED] as a pet name. She then asked MHM 1 questions about the matter. MHM 1 told her that she has "two daddies... one real and one pretend". She identified her real daddy as AHM and her pretend daddy as MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED]. She said it was her [REDACTED]. Bonnie Clark said that MHM 1 was interviewed at the [REDACTED] and the interview concluded that MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED], not AHM.

Bonnie Clark said that DHHS and law enforcement told her that she and the children cannot have contact with AHM. She advised that they have not been in the same house with AHM since MHM 1 made the allegations. They initially moved out of the house but then moved back in when AHM agreed to leave. Bonnie Clark advised that AHM hired an attorney and gave a statement to the law enforcement, but he is refusing to be interviewed. MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] was interviewed and has hired an attorney.

Bonnie Clark stated that she has not been providing child care since 01/27/2023. She was closed from 12/17/2022 – 01/15/2023 due to maternity leave. She opened on 01/16/2023 and then closed again on 01/27/2023 due to illness. She has not provided child care since that day.

I spoke with [REDACTED] on 03/20/2023. [REDACTED] explained that she received a complaint on 02/07/2023 with allegations that AHM had [REDACTED] MHM 1. MHM 1 then said it was MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] her and then she said again that it was AHM who [REDACTED] her. When MHM 1 was interviewed at the [REDACTED], she

stated that it was MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] who [REDACTED] her. She stated that [REDACTED]. AHM denied the allegations against him. [REDACTED] advised that he is currently not in the home. Bonnie Clark told [REDACTED] that AHM and MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] have never had unsupervised contact with child care children.

Bonnie Clark advised [REDACTED] that MHM 1 told her that MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] attempted to interview MHM 2, but he was too shy to talk. The [REDACTED] will not interview him because he is too young.

[REDACTED] explained that her concerns, and the reason AHM is not allowed in the home, are that AHM will not be interviewed by DHHS or law enforcement, that he is not following the safety plan set up by DHHS, and that MHM 1 initially disclosed that it was AHM who [REDACTED] her. [REDACTED] advised that she does not believe that law enforcement submitted a report to the prosecutor yet. She plans to wait to see what the prosecutor does before making any decisions on her case.

I spoke with [REDACTED] on 03/21/2023. She stated that she would be investigating this complaint with me, as she is a [REDACTED] that specializes in child care homes.

I spoke with Bonnie Clark on 03/21/2023 and she advised that the last three children she had enrolled were Child A, Child B, and Child C. She texted me their Child Information Records. During our conversation, Bonnie Clark stated that AHM was not present in the home when child care children were there. AHM left for work prior to their arrival and returned from work after they left.

In a text message on 03/21/2023, Bonnie Clark clarified the days she was in operation. She said the previous dates she gave were a little off. She resumed child care after maternity leave on 01/17/2023 and her last day with child care children was 02/02/2023. She closed on 02/06/2023 due to MHM 1 having [REDACTED]. The next morning, 02/07/2023, MHM 1 told her that she had [REDACTED].

On 03/21/2023 [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] are involved. The [REDACTED] department got involved when the allegations were believed to be against AHM. The [REDACTED] department got involved when the allegations were believed to be against MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED], as he resides elsewhere in [REDACTED], and it was alleged that the [REDACTED] might have happened at his residence.

[REDACTED] and I spoke with Child A's Mother on 03/22/2023. Child A's Mother said that she and Bonnie Clark have been friends for about six years. Bonnie Clark provided care, in a babysitting manner, for Child A before she had a child care license. When Bonnie Clark opened her license, Child A started going there. Child

A's Mother said she was aware of the allegations and of Bonnie Clark's situation. She let Bonnie Clark and her children stay with her for a while when the allegations first came about. Child A's Mother advised that she knows AHM and MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED]. She has never known either of them to be in the home during child care hours. Child A's Mother has never had any concerns about Bonnie Clark or Bonnie Clark's child care.

[REDACTED] and I spoke with Child B's Mother on 03/22/2023. Child B started in care when Bonnie Clark opened her license. She stopped going when Bonnie Clark closed due to "family issues". Child B's Mother said that she is familiar with AHM and with MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED]. She never saw AHM at Bonnie Clark's home when she brought Child B for care. Child B never talked about seeing AHM. She did see MHM 1 and 2's [REDACTED] one time. He was there either visiting his [REDACTED] or picking them up to take them somewhere, she could not remember for certain. MHM 1 and 2's [REDACTED] was present in a room with Bonnie Clark and with Child Care Staff Member (CCSM). Child B's Mother did not have any concerns about Bonnie Clark or the care she provided.

On 03/22/2023 I received an email from [REDACTED] that summarized a contact she had with [REDACTED] told her that while MHM a was at the [REDACTED] for her examination, she said that she was [REDACTED] by MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED]. During her interview at the Child Assessment Center, she only said she was [REDACTED] MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that AHM has not been cooperating with her or with law enforcement. According to a DHHS safety plan, he is not supposed to have any contact with MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED], and he is living with him. AHM's attorney submitted a one sentence statement denying the allegations against AHM. MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] was interviewed by law enforcement, and he denied the allegations against him.

On 03/23/2023 [REDACTED] and I conducted an on-site inspection. Bonnie Clark explained that MHM 1 has been [REDACTED] for about two years, [REDACTED] Recently, she started [REDACTED] On 02/06/2023 MHM 1 had an [REDACTED] She was in the living room with both parents at the time. She took her [REDACTED] in the living room and [REDACTED] The following morning, MHM 1 said, [REDACTED] and then said, [REDACTED] After Bonnie Clark told MHM 1 that it is important to tell the truth, MHM 1 said, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Bonnie Clark asked MHM 1 to show her what she meant on her teddy bear and MHM 1 said no. Then she asked MHM 1 to show her what she meant on her doll and MHM 1 started [REDACTED] Bonnie Clark left the house with her children that day and went to stay at her [REDACTED] house. She then called DHHS and law enforcement. DHHS instructed her to take MHM 1 to the [REDACTED] for an examination.

After her examination, MHM 1 pretended to be a little girl. Bonnie Clark said she usually pretends to be a princess, but never another child so she found it odd. Bonnie Clark restated what she told me during our phone call. She said that MHM 1 put her hands on Bonnie Clark's face, said "my name [REDACTED] we are here to keep MHM 1 [REDACTED] She had a stuffed lamb with her that she referred to as MHM 1.

It occurred to Bonnie Clark the next day that MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] MHM 1 [REDACTED] He calls MHM 2 [REDACTED] It should be noted that MHM 2's name is not [REDACTED]. MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] says that these are his "pet names" for the children. Bonnie Clark said that ever since MHM 1 was born, MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] has acted as if MHM 1 was his child. He says that she is the daughter he never had. He calls himself [REDACTED] when talking to MHM 1.

Bonnie Clark questioned MHM 1 about [REDACTED] She asked if it was [REDACTED] or MHM 1's [REDACTED]. MHM 1 stated that she had a [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED]. She identified her [REDACTED] AHM and her [REDACTED] s MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED]. She said it was her pretend [REDACTED] who [REDACTED] [REDACTED] During her interview at the [REDACTED], MHM 1 stated that it was MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED]. She talked about it happening at MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] in the "green room".

In the car on the way to her interview at the [REDACTED], MHM 1 started talking about a time that MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED]. Bonnie Clark asked her how that happened, and MHM 1 said, [REDACTED] and then [REDACTED] MHM 1 said this happened at her own home. Bonnie Clark recalled that on 01/10/2023 she went to the dentist and MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] stayed at the house with MHM 1 and MHM 2. When she got home from the dentist, MHM 1 and MHM 2 were "upset". MHM 1 said that MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] got [REDACTED] but MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] dismissed the statement, saying that he got it on [REDACTED], and it made him [REDACTED] Bonnie Clark did not think anything of the matter until MHM 1 brought it up the second time.

Bonnie Clark advised that MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] always wanted to spend one on one time with MHM 1. She spent the night a few times but after that would "burst into tears" if the subject came up. Bonnie Clark recently had a baby and thought that the emotion might be stemming from that but now she believes that might be about the time that MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] MHM 1.

Bonnie Clark advised neither AHM nor MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] ever had unsupervised contact with child care children. AHM would leave for work between 6:30 – 7:00 am and would return from work about 4:30 pm. Sometimes he would come home for lunch. Child care hours were 7:30 am – 4:30 pm. MHM 1 and MHM

2's ██████████ would stop by, "unannounced" from time to time to see MHM 1 and MHM 2, usually at nap time.

During the interview, Bonnie Clark advised that she did not intend to provide child care again any time soon. She was not sure if she even wanted to keep her license open.

██████████ asked Bonnie Clark what she would do if no one was convicted of ██████████ MHM 1 or MHM 2. Bonnie Clark said that she believes MHM 1 and that she will do what she needs to do to keep her children safe, including ██████████

Bonnie Clark advised that Child Care Staff Member (CCSM) started helping her toward the end of her pregnancy. He started in October or November. She had him present at the house to be interviewed this date.

CCSM denied ever seeing AHM or MHM 1 and MHM 2's ██████████ in the home alone with child care children. CCSM said AHM was usually at work. MHM 1 and MHM 2's ██████████ stopped by "out of the blue" to be with MHM 1 and MHM 2. Following the on-site inspection, I checked the child care background check system under Bonnie Clark's license and found that CCSM was eligible and connected.

██████████ interviewed Child C's Mother on 03/24/2023. Child C was in care at Bonnie Clark's home for the entirety of the license. Child C's Mother has known Bonnie Clark and AHM "for years". She also knows MHM 1 and MHM 2's ██████████. She sometimes saw AHM around child care children when he was coming home from work and "passing through" the child care room to go into the home. She has seen MHM 1 and MHM 2's ██████████ around child care children but could not recall for certain if Bonnie Clark or CCSM were present in the room or not. Child C's Mother has never had concerns regarding Bonnie Clark or the care she provides. Bonnie Clark told her about what MHM 1 is reporting. Child C's Mother said that MHM 1 is "mature for her age", "observant", and "has a great memory". She believes that what MHM 1 is saying is the truth.

██████████ interviewed AHM on 03/28/2023. AHM reported to ██████████ that he was never alone with child care children. He left for work between 6:45-7:00 am and returned about 4:30 pm. He came home for lunch on "rare occasion" and would pass through the child care area and go into the kitchen to eat his lunch. If the child care children were also in the kitchen, Bonnie Clark or CCSM would be with them. AHM said to his knowledge, MHM 1 and MHM 2's ██████████ was never alone with child care children.

On 04/12/2023 a pre-dispositional conference was held with ██████████, ██████████, and me. ██████████ advised that she was closing her investigation, but that ██████████ was keeping theirs open. She reported that law enforcement submitted their report to the prosecutor with a request for

charges, but a decision had not yet been made. On 04/13/2023, [REDACTED] contacted me to advise that she heard from Bonnie Clark and from [REDACTED] that the prosecutor's office did not authorize any charges.

I spoke with Bonnie Clark on 04/20/2023. She spoke about her frustration that charges were not authorized. She said, "nobody by law is willing to protect my kids". Bonnie Clark explained that they rent their home from MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED]. MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came to the home and refused to leave. Bonnie Clark called law enforcement, but law enforcement would not make them leave. Bonnie Clark said that she had to leave with her children. She filed personal protection orders for each child against MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] this morning. Bonnie Clark said that [REDACTED] said that AHM could move back into the home, so he did. Bonnie Clark feels that AHM has been "manipulated" and "gas lit" by MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] and that AHM believes MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED]. Bonnie Clark said that she is looking for a new place to live, away from [REDACTED]. She asked that her child care license be closed "right away".

I attempted telephone contact with Bonnie Clark on 07/18/2023 and found her telephone number was no longer in service. I sent an email to Bonnie Clark requesting contact but have yet to hear from her.

I had contact with [REDACTED] on 07/18/2023. Her case with Bonnie Clark is closed. She said that Bonnie Clark and her children are now residing in a [REDACTED].

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1903	Licensee Responsibilities.
	(5) The licensee shall ensure that all personnel, members of the household, and conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of children.
ANALYSIS:	Bonnie Clark ensured that AHM conducted himself in a manner that was conducive to the welfare of children. When she believed that he might be unsuitable, AHM moved out of the home. AHM was never unsupervised with child care children.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1911	Care; supervision; children.
	(1) A licensee shall ensure appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.
ANALYSIS:	Bonnie Clark ensured appropriate care and supervision of child care children at all times. AHM and MHM 1 and MHM 2's [REDACTED] were never unsupervised with child care children.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:

INVESTIGATION: I contacted Bonnie Clark on a matter unrelated to this investigation on 03/20/2023. It was at that time that Bonnie Clark advised me that DHHS and had been investigating AHM for [REDACTED] 02/07/2023.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1903	Licensee responsibilities.
	(1) A licensee shall be responsible for all of the following provisions: (g) Report to the department within, 3 business days, any changes in the household composition or when any new or existing member of the household or child care personnel has any of the following: (iv) Is being investigated by the state department of health and human services for an allegation of child abuse or neglect.
ANALYSIS:	Bonnie Clark did not report to the department within 3 business days that AHM was being investigated by DHHS [REDACTED]
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend no change in the license status.



07/26/2023

Tiara McKay
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



07/26/2023

Yolanda Sims
Area Manager

Date