



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

November 7, 2022

Tiffany Perez
208 S. Maple Street
Sturgis, MI 49091

RE: License #: DF750406612
Investigation #: 2023D0216002
Bright Stars Childcare

Dear Ms. Perez:

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(5) Licensee Responsibilities.
- R 400.1932(8) Home maintenance and safety.

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

- I interviewed the licensee and parents of children in care.
- I completed an on-site inspection on the following date: October 25, 2022.

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

R 400.1932(8) Home maintenance and safety.

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 November 4, 2022, you submitted an acceptable written corrective action plan.

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"/>

This report and any related corrective action plans must be filed in your licensing notebook. This 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.

Sincerely,

Carrie Harris

Carrie Harris, Licensing Consultant
Child Care Licensing Bureau
611 W. Ottawa Street
PO Box 30664
Lansing, MI 48909
(269) 615-5617

enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DF750406612
Investigation #:	2023D0216002
Complaint Receipt Date:	10/25/2022
Investigation Initiation Date:	10/25/2022
Report Due Date:	12/24/2022
Licensee Name:	Tiffany Perez
Licensee Address:	208 S. Maple Street Sturgis, MI 49091
Licensee Telephone #:	Unknown
Administrator:	N/A
Licensee Designee:	N/A
Name of Facility:	Bright Stars Childcare
Facility Address:	208 S. Maple Street Sturgis, MI 49091
Facility Telephone #:	(616) 421-5018
Original Issuance Date:	06/06/2022
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	06/06/2022
Expiration Date:	12/05/2022
Capacity:	6
Program Type:	CHILD CARE FAMILY HOME (CAPACITY 1-6)

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
On October 19, 2022, the child care home smelled like marijuana as though Ms. Perez or someone in the home had been smoking inside the residence. While in the upstairs play room, the complainant kept getting “whiffs” of marijuana and thought [REDACTED] or Minor Household Member 1 was smoking it somewhere else in the home.	No
Ms. Perez had multiple candles lit to try to hide the smell of the marijuana, but the odor was extremely strong.	Yes
Additional Findings	No

III. METHODOLOGY

10/25/2022	Special Investigation Intake 2023D0216002
10/25/2022	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site Spoke to Tiffany Perez from 1:20 PM to 2:50 PM
10/25/2022	Contact - Face to Face Spoke to Child A's Father from 2:50 to 2:52 PM
11/03/2022	Contact - Telephone call made Spoke to Child B's Mother and Child C's Mother
11/03/2022	Contact - Telephone call made Left voicemail messages for Child A's Mother and Child D & E's Mother
11/03/2022	Exit Conference Spoke to Tiffany Perez
11/03/2022	Inspection Completed-BCAL Sub. Compliance
11/04/2022	Corrective Action Plan Requested and Due on 11/03/2022
11/03/2022	Corrective Action Plan Received
11/03/2022	Corrective Action Plan Approved

ALLEGATION: On October 19, 2022, the child care home smelled like marijuana as though Ms. Perez or someone in the home had been smoking inside the residence. While in the upstairs play room, the complainant kept getting “whiffs” of marijuana and thought [REDACTED] or Minor Household Member 1 was smoking it somewhere else in the home.

INVESTIGATION: On October 25, 2022, I made an unscheduled inspection to the child care home and spoke to Ms. Perez about the allegation. Ms. Perez said she recently had a couple parents tour her home looking for child care and she suspects the complaint came from them. She acknowledged that her home does smell like marijuana because her [REDACTED] and uses it after child care hours to manage a [REDACTED]. She said he works outside the home during the day and is not present in the child care home most of the time when children are in care. Ms. Perez denied using any marijuana since February 2022, before she was licensed as a child care provider. She denied that Minor Household Member 1 (male, age 14) has ever smoked marijuana in the home. Ms. Perez explained that right now the marijuana plants smell more potent because it is harvest time. The odor comes up through the vents from the [REDACTED] where the marijuana is grown. She said all of her child care parents are aware that marijuana is grown and used in the home after child care hours. While I was talking to Ms. Perez, Minor Household Member 1 arrived home from school. Ms. Perez told him about the allegations, and he denied ever smoking marijuana.

I told Ms. Perez I smell a strong odor that smelled like marijuana when I entered the home. I asked Ms. Perez if I could see the [REDACTED] area. The door to the [REDACTED] was equipped with a latch so the children did not have access to that level of the home. [REDACTED] I could see an enclosed black grow tent with a zipper and Ms. Perez said the plants were inside the tent. I returned to the main level of the home and asked if I could see the child use area. We went upstairs and Ms. Perez explained that the reason she has her approved child use space on the second floor of her home is to provide more separation from the marijuana in the [REDACTED] so the odor is not as strong. I could smell the marijuana upstairs, but it was not as potent as the smell on the main level of the home.

On October 25, 2022, I was getting ready to leave and Child A’s Father arrived to pick-up Child A (female, age 4). He acknowledged that the home smells like marijuana and said he was aware that it was used in the home, but he did not have any concerns about the child care facility.

On November 3, 2022, I spoke to Child B’s Mother and Child C’s Mother. Child B’s Mother said Child B (female, age 4) is no longer attending the child care home because they moved away, but she said Ms. Perez was a great provider and she never had any concerns about the child care home. She acknowledged that she could smell marijuana when she walked in, but Child B never came home with the odor on her clothing. She was aware that Ms. Perez and [REDACTED] both used it, but

she never saw them smoke it while children were in care. She never saw Minor Household 1 use marijuana either.

Child C's Mother said Child C (male, age 4) has been attending the child care home for over three years. Ms. Perez was "open and honest" with her about growing marijuana in the [REDACTED] when Child C began attending the child care home. She stated that [REDACTED] works second shift and is rarely in the child care home during business hours. She has never seen or heard about anyone smoking marijuana in the home during child care hours. She said Ms. Perez is a good provider and they are happy with the care she provides.

Phone messages were left for Child A's Mother and Child D & E's Mother, but they were not returned.

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:	The licensee and all member of the household conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of children. There is no evidence that Ms. Perez, [REDACTED] or Minor Household Member 1 are smoking marijuana on the premises during child care hours.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION: Ms. Perez had multiple candles lit to try to hide the smell of the marijuana, but the odor was extremely strong.

INVESTIGATION: On October 25, 2022, I made an onsite inspection to the child care home and spoke to Ms. Perez about the allegations pertaining to the marijuana smell in the home. Ms. Perez showed me two candles that were lit on her dining room table. She said she burns candles every day to help mask the smell of the marijuana. I explained to Ms. Perez that candles cannot be used during child care hours and should not be within the reach of children. She immediately extinguished them, and we discussed other options that she could use such as air purifiers, diffusers, wax warmers that use a bulb to melt scented wax, and room sprays. She said she has tried other things but has not yet found anything that worked better than using candles to cover the marijuana scent in the home.

On November 3, 2022, I spoke to Child B's Mother and Child C's Mother about the allegation. Child B's Mother said the only candles she has ever seen lit in the home during child care hours were downstairs on the main level of the home and away from the children in care.

Child D's Mother said that Ms. Perez used to have candles lit in the mornings when she would bring Child D for care, but Ms. Perez has not had any candles lit since I was at the home for my investigation on October 25, 2022.

Phone messages were left for Child A's Mother and Child D & E's Mother, but they were not returned.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1932	Home maintenance and safety.
	(8) Open-flame devices and candles must not be used, except for birthdays or religious celebrations, and they must be inaccessible to children and extinguished when done.
ANALYSIS:	On October 25, 2022, Ms. Perez had two open-flame candles burning on the dining room table while children were napping upstairs. Child B's Mother and Child C's Mother both indicated that they have seen open-flame candles in the child care home during business hours.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend no change in the status of the child care license and this special investigation be closed.

Carrie Harris

November 7, 2022

Carrie Harris
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

Yolanda Sims

November 7, 2022

Yolanda Sims
Area Manager

Date