



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

REDACTED REPORT

December 17, 2020

Linda Ratliff
4243 River Road
Sodus, MI 49126

RE: License #: DG110292464
Investigation #: 2021D0220004
Linda Ratliff

Dear Ms. Ratliff:

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing division received a complaint against your facility that related to licensing rules or law. The allegations were related to the following:

R 400.8125 (3)(a) Discipline; child handling.

The details of the allegations are in the attached report. To investigate the allegations, I completed an onsite inspection on 11/04/2020. I interviewed the licensee, child care staff members, parents, and children with relevant information.

As a result of this investigation, I recommend no change to the current license status. I did not find any violations. The special investigation report is attached.

	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.

Sincerely,



Amy Steger, Licensing Consultant
Child Care Licensing Division
427 East Alcott
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 568-2915

enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DG110292464
Investigation #:	2021D0220004
Complaint Receipt Date:	11/04/2020
Investigation Initiation Date:	11/04/2020
Report Due Date:	01/03/2021
Licensee Name:	Linda Ratliff
Licensee Address:	4243 River Road Sodus, MI 49126
Licensee Telephone #:	(269) 925-1293
Administrator:	N/A
Licensee Designee:	N/A
Name of Facility:	Linda Ratliff
Facility Address:	4243 River Road Sodus, MI 49126
Facility Telephone #:	(269) 470-7575
Original Issuance Date:	12/04/2007
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	07/15/2020
Expiration Date:	07/14/2022
Capacity:	12
Program Type:	CHILD CARE GROUP HOME (CAPACITY 7-12)

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Charles Ratliff has been hitting children but primarily hits Child A and Child B. Mr. Ratliff has slapped Child A and Child B across the face on numerous occasions. Mr. Ratliff picked up Child A by the arm and threw [REDACTED] causing a bump on [REDACTED] head.	No

III. METHODOLOGY

11/04/2020	Special Investigation Intake - 2021D0220004
11/04/2020	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site Onsite at approximately 2:26 PM. Interviewed Linda Ratliff, Charles Ratliff, and child care staff member, Ashley Statler.
11/09/2020	Contact - Telephone call received Telephone call received from [REDACTED].
11/23/2020	Contact - Telephone call made Telephone contact with [REDACTED], Child A's Mother, Child B's Mother, and Child C's Mother. Attempted telephone contact with Child D's Parents and Child E and Child F's Parents.
11/23/2020	Inspection Completed-BCAL Full Compliance
11/23/2020	Exit Conference Telephone contact with Linda Ratliff for the exit conference.

ALLEGATION: Charles Ratliff has been hitting children but primarily hits Child A and Child B. Mr. Ratliff has slapped Child A and Child B across the face on numerous occasions. Mr. Ratliff picked up Child A by the arm and threw [REDACTED] causing a bump on [REDACTED] head.

INVESTIGATION: I conducted a joint investigation with [REDACTED]. We met at the home on 11/04/2020 for an unannounced onsite inspection. We made contact with Licensee, Linda Ratliff, her husband, Charles Ratliff, and Child Care Staff Member, Ashley Statler.

marks from running into a doorknob and some other scratches where the cause was unknown. The children usually receive time out as the primary method of discipline and there is a spot where they must sit. She denied having any concerns.

Child D's Parents and Child E and Child F's Parents did not [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] and I were not able to conduct interviews.

On 11/23/2020, I spoke with Child A's Mother and Child B's Mother over the telephone. They both denied any knowledge of physical discipline and identified time out as the primary discipline technique used at the home. Neither parent had any concerns.

On 11/23/2020, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

I conducted an exit interview with Mrs. Ratliff on 11/23/2020. I reminded her that time out cannot be used on children under 3 years of age and for no longer than 1 minute per age of the child.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1913	Discipline; child handling.
	(3) Personnel shall not do any of the following: (a) Hit, spank, shake, bite, pinch, or inflict other forms of corporal punishment.
ANALYSIS:	There was no evidence to support that Charles Ratliff was hitting, slapping, throwing, or using any forms of physical discipline with children.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend no change in the status of this license.

Amy Steger

12/17/2020

Amy Steger
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

Yolanda Sims

12/17/2020

Yolanda Sims
Area Manager

Date