



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
 DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
 LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
 GOVERNOR

ORLENE HAWKS  
 DIRECTOR

January 28, 2022

Linda Ratliff  
 4243 River Road  
 Sodus, MI 49126

RE: License #: DG110292464  
 Investigation #: 2022D0298004  
 Linda Ratliff

Dear Mrs. 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 400.1902(3) Applicant; licensee; requirements.
- R 400.1904a(4) Child care staff member; employment requirements.
- R 400.1911(1) Care; supervision; children.

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

- I interviewed the licensee, her child care staff member, the licensee's son, and parents.
- I completed an onsite inspection on 12/01/2021.

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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiara McKay', written in a cursive style.

Tiara McKay, Licensing Consultant  
Child Care Licensing Bureau  
611 W. Ottawa Street  
PO Box 30664  
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**

<b>License #:</b>	DG110292464
<b>Investigation #:</b>	2022D0298004
<b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>	11/30/2021
<b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b>	12/01/2021
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	01/29/2022
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	Linda Ratliff
<b>Licensee Address:</b>	4243 River Road Sodus, MI 49126
<b>Licensee Telephone #:</b>	(269) 925-1293
<b>Administrator:</b>	N/A
<b>Licensee Designee:</b>	N/A
<b>Name of Facility:</b>	Linda Ratliff
<b>Facility Address:</b>	4243 River Road Sodus, MI 49126
<b>Facility Telephone #:</b>	(269) 470-7575
<b>Original Issuance Date:</b>	12/04/2007
<b>License Status:</b>	REGULAR
<b>Effective Date:</b>	07/15/2020
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	07/14/2022
<b>Capacity:</b>	12
<b>Program Type:</b>	CHILD CARE GROUP HOME (CAPACITY 7-12)

## II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Linda Ratliff's [REDACTED] is living in the home. He has drugs and weapons in the home, and he should not be around the child care children.	No
Charlie Ratliff is Linda Ratliff's husband and child care staff member. He has [REDACTED] and has violent tendencies.	No

## III. METHODOLOGY

11/30/2021	Special Investigation Intake – 2022D0298004
12/01/2021	Special Investigation Initiated – On-site from approximately 2:15 until 3:00 pm.
12/06/2021	Contact – Voice mail message received from [REDACTED]
12/06/2021	Contact – Telephone call made to [REDACTED] Received a recording stating “the number you are trying to reach has been disconnected or is no longer in service”.
12/15/2021	Contact – Missed telephone call received from [REDACTED]
12/15/2021	Contact – Telephone call made to [REDACTED] Received a recording stating “the number you are trying to reach has been disconnected or is no longer in service”.
12/15/2021	Contact – Text message received from Linda Ratliff's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] including a photo of Charles Ratliff's recent medical clearance.
01/24/2022	Contact – Telephone call made to [REDACTED] Received a recording stating “the number you are trying to reach has been disconnected or is no longer in service”.
01/24/2022	Contact – Missed telephone call received from [REDACTED]
01/24/2022	Contact – Telephone call made to Child A and B's Mother.
01/24/2022	Contact – Telephone call made to Child C's Mother.

01/24/2022	Contact – Telephone call made to Child D's Mother. Left a voice mail message requesting a return call.
01/24/2022	Contact – Telephone call made to Linda Ratliff.
01/24/2022	Contact – Text message sent to [REDACTED]
01/24/2022	Contact – Text message received from [REDACTED]
01/24/2022	Exit Conference with Linda Ratliff.
01/28/2022	Contact – Telephone call to Linda Ratliff.

**ALLEGATION:** Linda Ratliff's [REDACTED] is living in the home. He has drugs and weapons in the home, and he should not be around the child care children.

**INVESTIGATION:** I conducted an unscheduled on-site inspection on 12/01/2021. I interviewed Linda Ratliff, and her husband and child care staff member Charles Ratliff. Both Mrs. and Mr. Ratliff stated that their [REDACTED] does not live in their home. He comes to the home "some weeks, every day" and other weeks "less". He works in the garage that is located on the property, behind the home. He will occasionally come inside the home to use the bathroom, but he is "in and out" and has very minimal contact with the child care children. Mrs. and Mr. Ratliff stated that their son does not bring drugs or weapons into the home, nor does he come to the home under the influence of drugs.

Child A and B's Mother stated that she has been using Mrs. Ratliff for child care for about seven years. She has seen their son at the home "maybe two times in seven years" and both times he was in the garage. Other times she has seen his vehicle and assumed he was in the garage. She had no knowledge as to whether or not he lives in the home. Her children have never stated anything concerning regarding Mrs. Ratliff's child care home.

Child C's Mother said that Child C has been coming to Mrs. Ratliff's home for care for almost five years. She has seen Mrs. Ratliff's son working on his vehicle in the garage, but not in the home. She has no concerns regarding Mrs. Ratliff's son.

I communicated with [REDACTED] via text message, as his telephone cannot receive calls. He advised that he is not living in the home. He stated that he comes to the home to work in the garage, where he keeps his tools. He only goes into the home "every now and then for a minute". He denied drug use and he stated that he never brings weapons around children.

On 01/28/2022 Ms. Ratliff specifically stated that her son has never had any unsupervised contact with the child care children. She further stated that children are never alone with anyone other than her or Mr. Ratliff.

I attempted contact with Child D's Mother, but I was not successful in reaching her.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.1902</b>	<b>Applicant; licensee; requirements.</b>
	<b>(3) All persons, including minors, residing in the child care home shall meet all of the following requirements:</b> <b>(a) Be suitable to meet the needs of children.</b> <b>(b) Be able to ensure that services and facilities are conducive to the welfare of children.</b> <b>(c) Act in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of children.</b> <b>(d) Demonstrate a willingness and ability to comply with the act and these rules.</b>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	██████████ does not live in the child care home.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.1911</b>	<b>Care; supervision; children.</b>
	<b>(1) A licensee shall ensure appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.</b>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	Mrs. Ratliff is providing appropriate care and supervision of children. Her son comes to her home and works in garage. He is not under the influence of substances and is not bringing weapons. He has minimal contact with child care children.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

**ALLEGATION:** Charlie Ratliff is Linda Ratliff’s husband and child care staff member. He has [REDACTED] and has violent tendencies.

**INVESTIGATION:** Mrs. Ratliff stated that Mr. Ratliff does not have any violent tendencies. He is not violent toward anyone, including the child care children. Mr. Ratliff was upset with the allegations, not commenting on them specifically, but voicing frustration that someone would say such a thing. Mrs. Ratliff advised that Mr. Ratliff has a physical scheduled soon. She would have Mr. Ratliff’s physician complete a Medical Clearance Request and then forward a copy to me.

During the on-site inspection I observed Mr. Ratliff with the child care children. He was playful and loving toward them, as he has been each time that I have been to the home. The children went to Mr. Ratliff on their own and were happy to be with him.

I received a text message from Mrs. Ratliff’s daughter on 12/15/2021. The text message included a photograph of Mr. Ratliff’s Medical Clearance. Mr. Ratliff saw his physician on 12/09/2021. His physician found that “no physical/mental or health condition exists that would limit the ability to provide independent care of children (birth to age 17) in a child care setting”.

Child A and B’s Mother said that she speaks with Mr. Ratliff “regularly” and she has never noticed signs of [REDACTED] nor has she seen any violent tendencies. Her children have never said anything concerning to her. Child A and Child B “love going there”. They “get upset on days that they can’t go”. Mr. Ratliff is “good to the kids”. Child A and B’s Mother has never had any concerns regarding Mr. or Mrs. Ratliff. They have always loved her children like their own grandchildren.

Child C’s Mother said that she has never had any concerns regarding Mr. Ratliff. She said that Child C “looks forward to seeing papa Charlie”. Child C enjoys being with and doing things with Mr. Ratliff. Child C’s Mother said that Mr. and Mrs. Ratliff are like grandparents to the children in their care.

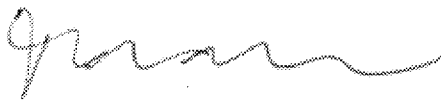
<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.1904a</b>	<b>Child care staff member; employment requirements.</b>
	<b>(4) A child care staff member shall conduct himself or herself in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of children and be able to meet the needs of children and provide for the care, supervision, and protection.</b>

<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	Mr. Ratliff conducts himself in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of the children, and he is able to meet the children's needs and provide for their care, supervision, and protection.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.1911</b>	<b>Care; supervision; children.</b>
	<b>(1) A licensee shall ensure appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.</b>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	Mrs. Ratliff ensures appropriate care and supervision of children at all times. According to his physician, Mr. Ratliff has no health condition that would limit his ability to provide care to children. The children love Mr. Ratliff and their parents have no concerns regarding him or the care that he provides.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

#### IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend no change in the status of the license.



01/28/2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tiara McKay  
Licensing Consultant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved By:



01/28/2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Yolanda Sims  
Area Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date