



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
ACTING DIRECTOR

September 20, 2023

REDACTED REPORT

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

Kamie Benzing



RE: License #: DG300336161
Investigation #: 2023D0267017
Benzing, Kamie

Dear Kamie Benzing:

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

R 400.1911(1) Care; supervision; children.

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

- I interviewed the licensee, child care staff member, parents, and law enforcement.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 8/18/2023.

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

R 400.1911(1) Care; supervision; children.

I recommend no change to the current license status.

Due to the violations, you must send us a corrective action plan by 10/15/2023. You can use our [corrective action plan](#) form or create your own.

If you need help writing the corrective action plan, please contact me. If you do not send a corrective action plan, you may face disciplinary action. The corrective action plan 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.
- How continuing compliance will be maintained once compliance is achieved.
- The signature of the responsible party and a date.

During this special investigation:	Yes	No
A rule or law violation was found and a serious injury or death occurred.	☐	☐
A rule or law violation was found and abuse and/or neglect of a child occurred.	☐	☐

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](#).

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,



Julia Majka, Licensing Consultant
 Child Care Licensing Bureau
 611 W. Ottawa Street
 P.O. Box 30837
 Lansing, MI 48909
 (269) 615-6039

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CHILD CARE LICENSING BUREAU
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DG300336161
Investigation #:	2023D0267017
Complaint Receipt Date:	08/16/2023
Investigation Initiation Date:	08/18/2023
Report Due Date:	10/15/2023
Licensee Name:	Kamie Benzing
Licensee Address:	[REDACTED]
Licensee Telephone #:	[REDACTED]
Administrator:	N/A
Licensee Designee:	
Name of Facility:	Benzing Kamie
Facility Address:	2 E. Sharp St Hillsdale, MI 49242
Facility Telephone #:	(517) 398-2275
Original Issuance Date:	08/23/2012
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	02/12/2023
Expiration Date:	02/11/2025
Capacity:	14
Program Type:	CHILD CARE GROUP HOME (CAPACITY 7-12)

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Kamie Benzing did not provide appropriate care and supervision when she was inside helping other children, and Child A, B and C were on the front porch for 3-5 minutes unsupervised. Child A asked Child B and C to show him their penises. Child A then had Child B and C touch his penis and he touched theirs.	Yes

III. METHODOLOGY

08/16/2023	Special Investigation Intake 2023D0267017
08/18/2023	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site Arrived at 10:55am; Left at 11:35pm Interviewed Kamie Benzing and Child Care Staff Member (CCSM) 1
08/23/2023	Contact - Telephone call received Telephone call received from [REDACTED]
08/24/2023	Contact - Telephone call made Telephone contact made with Child B and D's mother, telephone contact attempted with Child A's mother and Child C's mother
08/28/2023	Contact - Telephone call made Telephone contact made with Child A's mother
08/29/2023	Contact - Telephone call made Telephone contact made with Child C's mother and father
08/31/2023	Contact – Voicemail received Voicemail received from Child A's mother
09/27/2023	Contact – Text Message Text exchange with Child A's mother
09/27/2023	Contact – Telephone call made Telephone call attempted with [REDACTED]
09/27/2023	Exit Conference with Kamie Benzing

ALLEGATION: Kamie Benzing did not provide appropriate care and supervision when she was inside helping other children, and Child A, B and C were on the front porch for 3-5 minutes unsupervised. Child A asked Child B and C to show him their penises. Child A then had Child B and C touch his penis and he touched theirs.

INVESTIGATION: On August 18, 2023, I completed an unannounced onsite inspection at Kamie Benzing's facility. I interviewed Kamie Benzing and child care staff member (CCSM) 1. Kamie Benzing said she received a text message from Child B's parents on August 9, 2023, saying they needed to meet with her in the morning. On August 10, 2023, they came to her house and said Child B told them "Child A told Child B if you touch your penis, it gets hard." Child B then told them that on the couch on the front porch Child A asked him and Child C to pull their pants down to show him their penises. Kamie Benzing said the first time she spoke to Child B's parents, they told her Child B did pull his pants down and Child A and Child B then touched each other's penises, but Child C did not pull his pants down. Child B's parents told her they were not sure if they were going to report anything because they did not want Child B to be interviewed. Kamie Benzing told Child B's parents she was closing for vacation until the following Wednesday. Child B's parents came the following Wednesday and reported they did want the incident reported and that is when Kamie Benzing reported the incident to Child Care Licensing. Kamie Benzing stated when she spoke with Child B's parent on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, they went over the story again and told her Child C did get his penis out and Child A touched him as well. Kamie Benzing stated she was unsure if she misunderstood the first time they told the story or if they spoke with Child B more while she was closed. Kamie Benzing stated she has been thinking a lot about when this could have happened. She figures it was while the children were getting ready to do water play in the backyard. CCSM 1 had multiple children in the backyard putting sunscreen on them, while Kamie Benzing was helping children get changed into their swimsuits. She stated there were a couple children on the front porch waiting to come in and get changed. She would stand by the front door to check on them but didn't open the door. She believes that is when the inappropriate touching could have happened. She said Child A, B, and C were on the front porch for approximately 3-5 minutes. I inspected the area and observed the couch on the front porch cannot be seen when standing inside the front door. Kamie Benzing said she has advised Child A's and Child C's parents of the incident. Child A's mother readily agreed that he would not be coming back to care at the facility. Child C's parents were told of the incident after Kamie Benzing spoke with Child B's family on August 16, 2023. On August 17, 2023 Child C's mother called Kamie Benzing and told her after speaking with Child C he also told them that Child A put his mouth on his penis. It is unsure how Child C's parents conducted the interview. Kamie Benzing said Child A only attended part time for the last two years, and had hardly been in care all summer. There had been no previous incidents of inappropriate touching. Kamie

Benzing agreed to a safety plan that she will bring in all children from the front porch when they are changing for water play and Child A will no longer be in care.

CCSM 1 said she did not see anything happen between Child A, B and C, but she and Kamie Benzing believe it happened in the morning when they were getting ready for water play. CCSM 1 stated they normally have the children separated and she does sunscreen on the back deck while Kamie Benzing has the other children towards the front of the house getting changed. Nothing has been disclosed to her and she has not spoken with any of the parents. CCSM 1 said she has worked at the facility for five years and she has never had any concerns with Child A, or the supervision provided.

On August 23, 2023 I received a telephone call from [REDACTED]. She stated she received this case due a report made from Child C's parents. She stated in her report Child C told his parents that if you touch your penis it gets hard, and that he didn't want to talk to Child A because he blew on his penis. [REDACTED] stated there is no history of any allegations against Child A and her office would likely speak with the parents and close the case due to their ages.

On August 24, 2023 I made telephone contact with Child B's mother. She said she has another child in Kamie Benzing's care, Child D. She stated this incident came to her attention because she was helping Child B in the bathroom and he started playing with his penis, which is not normal for him. He then said, "Mommy, did you know that if you play with your pee pee it gets hard." Child B's mother said she asked him why he would say that, and he said Child A told him. Child B's mother then got Child B's father involved in the conversation and they asked him why he and Child A were talking about penises. Child B told them, "Child A asked me to touch his pee pee." They asked him when this happened and he said Child A, C, and himself were on the front porch and Child A asked them to pull down their pants and get their pee pee's out. He then added that Child A touched his pee pee and Child C's pee pee and they touched Child A's pee pee. Child B's mother stated they tried to call Kamie Benzing that night, but she didn't answer. Child B's father then text Kamie Benzing the next morning saying, "We are stopping by this morning to talk about something that may have happened yesterday with Child A, B and C. The boys will not be coming today." Child B's mother and father met with Kamie Benzing on August 10, 2023, and advised her of what Child B told them. They also told her that Child B and Child D would not be attending the child care anymore if Child A continued to attend. Kamie Benzing text them later that evening and said Child A would no longer be attending. Child B's mother said she has never had any concerns with Child A, or the supervision provided at the facility. They have loved their children attending the facility and they continue to attend since Child A is no longer there.

On August 28, 2023, I made telephone contact with Child A's mother. She said that she and Kamie Benzing are friends, and Kamie Benzing was heartbroken to tell her, but advised her of the incident between Child A and two other children. Child A's mother said she immediately told Kamie Benzing they would not be bringing Child A

back to care. He had only attended six times over the summer, and they did not have any signs of this behavior before. Child A's mother said they did foster and adopt Child A, and she was aware of possible abuse with his siblings, who live in other homes, but he has never disclosed any abuse and they have never seen any behaviors to suggest they should be worried. Child A's mother said Kamie Benzing was aware that Child A was fostered and adopted by her family, but she was not aware of any abuse within the family. Child A's mother said she has asked Child A about the incident, and he said he didn't remember anything like that, and he didn't want to talk about it. She advised they are trying to find him a counselor but have tried about 25 different places and they are not taking any new patients at this time. She agreed to follow-up if she found a counselor.

On August 29, 2023 I made telephone contact with Child C's mother and father. They reported they were on vacation and received a text message from another parent at the facility saying Kamie Benzing would be closed for a few days due to a very serious incident. Child C's mother and father said they did not get the same message, but they were on vacation. They reached out to Kamie Benzing and she told them she was working her way down the list, but Child C was not involved. The day prior to the text messages, Child C had told his father that Child A told him if you play with your penis it gets bigger. At the time, Child C's father just thought Child A shouldn't be talking about these things, but after hearing about the possible serious incident he had concerns and planned to follow-up with Kamie Benzing. The day after they returned from vacation Kamie Benzing reached out to Child C's mother and told her about what Child B had disclosed to his parents and that Child C was involved. She explained she misunderstood the first time she spoke with Child B's parents and thought Child C was on the porch, but was not involved in the touching. Child C's parents explained they then talked to Child C and said he didn't do anything wrong, but they heard that Child A did some bad things at "Ms. Kamie's" house and Child A would not be coming back. Child C then told them that Child A put his mouth on his penis and blew on it. They reported he mimicked it by putting his head in his own lap. Child C's parents reported prior to this incident they have never had concerns with supervision, and this seemed very out of character for the facility. They reported Child C continues to attend Kamie Benzing's child care and they hope that Child A can get some help.

On August 31, 2023, I received a voicemail from Child A's mother reporting they did find a counselor to provide Child A in home therapy.

On September 27, 2023, I followed up with Child A's mother to see if Child A had disclosed anything regarding the allegations of abuse during his counseling sessions. She said Child A is doing well with the counseling and he has not disclosed anything about the incident.

On September 27, 2023, I completed the exit conference with Kamie Benzing. She advised Child B and Child C still attend the child care and she has had no further

contact with law enforcement. She was provided technical assistance regarding reporting incidents of inappropriate contact to the department within 24 hours.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1911	Care; supervision; children.
	(1) A licensee shall ensure appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.
ANALYSIS:	Kamie Benzing did not provide appropriate care and supervision with Child A, B, and C were on the front porch unsupervised and inappropriately touched each other.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Upon receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan; I recommend no change in the license status.

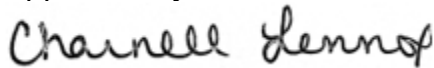


9/27/2023

Julia Majka
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



10/2/2023

Charnell Lennox
Area Manager

Date