

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LIFELONG EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT, AND POTENTIAL
CHILD CARE LICENSING BUREAU

In the matter of

License #: DG524017043

SIR #: SI-00140660

Andrea Richard

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ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVOKE LICENSE

The Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential, by Division Director Scott Bettys and Bureau Director Courtney Adams, Child Care Licensing Bureau, hereafter referred to as “the Bureau,” orders the summary suspension and provides notice of the intent to revoke the license of Licensee, Andrea Richard, to operate a group child care home pursuant to the authority of the Child Care Organizations Act, 1973 PA 116, as amended, MCL 722.111 et seq., for the following reasons:

1. On or about March 27, 2025, Licensee was issued a license to operate a group child care home with a licensed capacity of 12 at 371 West Wright Place, Marquette, Michigan 48955.
2. Prior to the issuance of the license, and during subsequent modifications of the statutes and rules, Licensee received copies of the Child Care Organizations Act, the licensing rule book for family and group child care homes, and the Child Protection Law. These rules and statutes are posted and available for download at www.michigan.gov/mileap.

3. Licensee failed to provide appropriate care and supervision of children at all times and is not conducive to the welfare of children, as demonstrated by the following:
- a. Licensee frequently allows Child A, age 6 years, to walk around the neighborhood with Minor Household Member (MHM) 1, age 9 years. The area is wooded, and the children are not visible from the child care home after they turn off West Wright Street/Place. They are not accompanied by a child care staff member or an adult. West Wright Place and other streets in the neighborhood do not have sidewalks, and the children walk in the street.
 - b. On July 1, 2025, MHM 1 and Child A went to Family Dollar unaccompanied by an adult or child care staff member. Family Dollar is approximately 0.3 miles from Licensee's home, according to Google Maps.
 - c. On the morning of July 9, 2025, Licensee allowed MHM 1 and Child A to walk around the neighborhood without supervision. A child care parent observed MHM 1 and Child A walking around the neighborhood at 11:00 a.m.
 - d. Sometime in the early afternoon on July 9, 2025, MHM 1 and Child A left the child care home and walked to the Family Dollar without adult supervision. Family Dollar is approximately 0.3 miles from the child care home.

- e. On July 9, 2025, sometime in the early afternoon, MHM 1 and Child A, age 6 years, were playing in the child care home and pretending to travel to “Disney,” according to the Licensee. Licensee gave them permission to walk around the block without adult supervision. MHM 1 and Child A left the home with a rolling backpack/suitcase.
- f. On July 9, 2025, MHM 1 and Child A walked down West Wright Place and then continued on the walking path along the west side of US Highway 41. US Highway 41 has five lanes of traffic with posted speed limits of 45 mph and 55 mph. The road is heavily traveled with semi-trucks, campers, trucks, trailers, and other vehicles.
- g. On July 9, 2025, at 2:43 p.m., video surveillance shows MHM 1 and Child A walking in front of the Chocoday Township Police Department. According to Google Maps, the police department is approximately a 12-minute walk for the average person and 0.5 miles away from Licensee’s home.
- h. On July 9, 2025, the children continued walking to the intersection of US Highway 41 and Highway M28. MHM 1 and Child A used the crosswalk on US Highway 41 to cross the busy intersection and then walked in a grassy area to McDonald’s.
- i. On July 9, 2025, at 2:49 p.m., MHM 1 and Child A entered McDonald’s, asked staff for some free fries, and then sat and ate the fries in the restaurant. MHM 1 and Child A left McDonald’s at 3:04 p.m. According to Google Maps, McDonald’s is approximately a 20-minute walk for the average person and 1.1 miles from Licensee’s home.

- j. On July 9, 2025, after leaving McDonald's, MHM 1 and Child A walked along the north side of Highway M28. Highway M28 is a five-lane road with a posted speed of 55 mph. It is heavily traveled and does not have sidewalk or walking path. The side of the road has a steep incline and a low shoulder, making it difficult to walk.
- k. On July 9, 2025, at 3:46 p.m., Chocolay Township Police Detective Carter Nick Carter observed MHM 1 and Child A walking along Highway M28 near Wintergreen Trail. This location was approximately .77 miles from McDonald's, according to Apple Watch. When Detective Carter approached the children, they stated they were walking to Child A's grandma's house in Deerton, approximately 15 miles from where the children were located. There was a fishing pier less than 500 feet from the children when they were found.
- l. On July 9, 2025, at 3:48 p.m., Detective Carter called Licensee, who responded, "I'm so glad you called. Do you have two little girls?" Detective Carter informed her that he found the children walking along Highway M28 and how far they were from her home. Licensee stated that she was unable to leave as she was caring for other children. Licensee told Detective Carter that this has happened in the past. Detective Carter drove the children back to Licensee's home. Detective Carter later informed Licensing Consultant Meagan Guindon that the children were found in an unsafe location and that it was a "very dangerous situation."

m. On July 11, 2025, Licensing Consultant Meagan Guindon and Licensing Consultant Jeannie Ellis conducted an on-site, unannounced inspection at Licensee's home. They were accompanied by Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Worker Karin Schultz. They also interviewed Licensee via telephone on several occasions during the investigation.

Licensee made the following statements:

- i. Licensee informed the consultants that she gave MHM 1 and Child A permission to walk around the block on July 9, 2025. She stated that after lunch, they left the home. After about 15 minutes, she went to the front porch to see if they were on their way back. She checked a few more times and then assumed that the children had stopped at a friend's house nearby. Licensee then left the home and walked through her neighbor's yard to see if she could see the children, leaving six children between the ages of 8 months and 4 years alone in the home.
- ii. Licensee stated that after a while, she started contacting family members to come over and assist with the children so she could locate MHM 1 and Child A. Licensee submitted a screen shot of her call log to Meagan Guindon, and it showed that she contacted MHM 3 at 3:46 p.m. on July 9, 2025, two minutes before Detective Carter called her. That was the only call made after the children left the home.

- n. Based on video footage, witnesses' reports, and Google Maps, MHM 1 and Child A were gone for at least one hour and fifteen minutes without adult supervision. They crossed heavily traveled roads and walked along a busy road with a shoulder on a steep incline. They were found approximately 2 miles from the child care home. According to public sex offender registry, there are two sex offenders residing within a block of the route traveled by MHM 1 and Child A. Licensee did not contact police during this time.
- 4. Licensee failed to maintain a ratio of one child care staff member for every six unrelated children and any related children under the age of 6 years. On July 9, 2025, there were six unrelated children and one related child, age 21 months. Licensee was the only child care staff person present for seven children.
- 5. Licensee failed to provide accurate and truthful information to the Bureau during the investigation. Specifically:
 - a. On July 10, 2025, Licensee submitted a written incident report to the Bureau reporting the incident involving MHM 1 and Child A. In the report, she indicated that MHM 1 and Child A left her home at 2:45 p.m. on July 9, 2025. Licensee later told Meagan Guindon that the last time she saw MHM 1 and Child A was at 2:45 p.m. However, video footage shows the children walking by the Chocoday Township Police Department at 2:43 p.m., which is approximately a 12-minute walk for the average person.

- b. On July 11, 2025, Licensee told Meagan Guindon that MHM 2, age 21 months, was not present on July 9, 2025. However, she later admitted that MHM 2 was present that day.

COUNT I

The conduct of Licensee, as set forth in paragraphs 3(a) through 3(n) above, evidences a willful and substantial violation of:

R 400.1911

(1) A licensee shall ensure appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.

COUNT II

The conduct of Licensee, as set forth in paragraphs 3(a) through 3(n) above, evidences a willful and substantial violation of:

R 400.1911

(4) A licensee and child care staff members shall know the location of each child at all times.

COUNT III

The conduct of Licensee, as set forth in paragraphs 3(a) through 3(n) above, evidences a willful and substantial violation of:

R 400.1902

(3) All persons, including minors, residing in the child care home shall meet all of the following requirements:

(c) Act in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of children.

NOTE:
MCL 722.115m

(14) As used in this section:

(b) "Conducive to the welfare of the children" means:

(i) The service and facility comply with this act and the administrative rules promulgated under this act.

(ii) The disposition, temperament, condition, and action of the applicant, licensee, licensee designee, program director, child care staff member, and member of the household promote the safety and well-being of the children served.

COUNT IV

The conduct of Licensee, as set forth in paragraphs 5(a) and 5(b) above, evidences a willful and substantial violation of:

R 400.1903

(4) The licensee shall cooperate with the department in connection with an inspection or investigation, as required in section 10(1) of the act, MCL 722.120(1). Cooperation includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(c) Provide accurate and truthful information to the department, and encourage witnesses to provide accurate and truthful information to the department.

COUNT V

The conduct of Licensee, as set forth in paragraph 4 above, evidences a willful and substantial violation of:

R 400.1910

(1) The ratio of personnel to children present in the home at any 1 time must be not less than 1 member of the personnel to 6 children. The ratio must include all children in care who are not related to any personnel and any of the following children who are less than 6 years of age:

- (a) Children of the licensee.
- (b) Children of a child care staff member or child care assistant.
- (c) Children related to any member of the household by blood, marriage, or adoption.

DUE TO THE serious nature of the above violations and the potential risk it represents to vulnerable children in Licensee's care, emergency action is required. Therefore, the provision of MCL 24.292 of the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969, as amended, is invoked. Licensee is hereby notified that the license to operate a group child care home is summarily suspended.

EFFECTIVE 6:00 p.m., on July 16, 2025, Licensee is ordered not to operate a group child care home at 371 West Wright Place, Marquette, Michigan 49855, or at any other location or address. Licensee is not to receive children for care after that time or date. Licensee is responsible for informing parents or guardians of children in care that license has been suspended and that Licensee can no longer provide care.

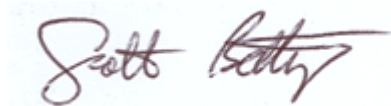
HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE Department has summarily suspended Licensee's license, an administrative hearing will be promptly scheduled before an administrative law judge. Unless the Licensee waives their right to an administrative hearing, the Department will submit a request for hearing packet to the Michigan Office of

Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) on Licensee's behalf. If Licensee has questions regarding the administrative hearing or no longer wishes to continue the appeal process, Licensee should contact MOAHR:

Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules
611 West Ottawa Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8139
Phone: 517-335-7519
FAX: 517-763-0155
MOAHR-BSD-Support@michigan.gov

MCL 24.272 of the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969 permits the Department to proceed with the administrative hearing even if Licensee does not appear. Licensee may be represented by an attorney at the administrative hearing.

DATED: 7/16/2025



Scott Bettys, Division Director
Child Care Licensing Bureau

DATED: 7/16/2025



Courtney Adams, Bureau Director
Child Care Licensing Bureau

This is the last and final page of the ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION AND NOTICE OF INTENT in the matter of Andrea Richard, DG524017043, consisting of 10 pages, this page included.

JEK