

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

In the matter of

License #: DF130281539
SIR #: SI-00148631
SI-00151999

Sarah Wildt

_____ /

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVOKE LICENSE

The Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential, by Division Director Erika Bigelow 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, Sarah Wildt, to operate a family 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 September 13, 2006, Licensee was issued a license to operate a family child care home with a licensed capacity of seven at 510 South Sophia Street, Homer, Michigan 49245.
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.

Previous Licensing Violations

3. On November 15, 2023, Licensing Consultant Roxanne Duckworth conducted an on-site renewal inspection at Licensee's home. Roxanne Duckworth observed that the home was not maintained in a clean, safe, and comfortable condition, as required by Rule 400.1932(1). Roxanne Duckworth provided technical assistance to Licensee regarding the violation.
4. On September 18, 2024, Licensing Consultant Kari Shepherd conducted an on-site renewal inspection at Licensee's home and cited Licensee, in part, for failing to maintain the child care home in a clean, safe, and comfortable condition, as required by Rule 400.1932(1). There were large sections of tiled flooring missing in the kitchen. On October 13, 2024, Licensee submitted a corrective action plan stating that she would replace the kitchen floor by December 1, 2024.
5. On October 30, 2025, Kari Shepherd conducted an on-site interim inspection at Licensee's home and cited Licensee, in part, for failing to maintain the home in a clean, safe, and comfortable condition, as required by Rule 400.1932(1). The kitchen floor was in disrepair and needed to be replaced. On November 19, 2025, Licensee submitted a corrective action plan stating that she would replace the kitchen flooring by November 20, 2025.

Current Licensing Violations

6. Licensee is not conducive to the welfare of children served. Specifically:

a. Licensee [REDACTED] on children, as evidenced by the following:

i. On January 13, 2026, when they arrived at school, Child A, age 7 years, and Child C, age 9 years, ran ahead of Licensee to get to the school entrance quicker because they were cold. Licensee walked up to Child A, [REDACTED] away from the other children.

ii. On January 15, 2026, Licensing Consultant Kari Shepherd, accompanied by Michigan Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Worker Lindsey Pittelkow, forensically interviewed Child A, Child B, Child C, and Child E. During the interviews, the children made the following statements:

1. Child A stated that when babies cry, Licensee tells them to [REDACTED]. On one occasion, Child A forgot to take his boots. Licensee [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Child A also indicated that Licensee [REDACTED] toward the corner for timeout.

2. Child B, age 10 years, stated that Licensee [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as a form of discipline. Child B stated that when Licensee is mad at her, Child B will run out of the home because she does not want Licensee to touch her.

3. Child C told Kari Shepherd that earlier that day, Licensee [REDACTED] Child H, age 3 years, into the corner for timeout. When Child H started walking away from the corner, Licensee [REDACTED]. Child H fell and caught himself by grabbing on the half wall near the corner.
 4. Child E, age 7 years, stated that when children get in trouble at the child care home, Licensee [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to go the corner for timeout. Licensee also [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
 5. Child F, age 5 years, told Kari Shepherd that Licensee [REDACTED]
- iii. On February 9, 2026, Kari Shepherd forensically interviewed Child D, age 12 years, at his school. Child D stated that he last attended Licensee's child care in the summer of 2025. Child D indicated that one day near the end of the summer, Child D was sitting on the floor playing with Child A when Licensee [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Child D [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of Licensee [REDACTED]
 - iv. During an interview with MDHHS Worker Lindsey Pittelkow, Child A's Father indicated that approximately eight years ago, he and Child A, B, C, and D's Mother lived in Licensee's basement for three months. During that time, Child A's Father witnessed Licensee [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

off the ground on numerous occasions. He also witnessed her [REDACTED] outside with her.

b. Licensee failed to maintain the home and premises in a clean, safe, and comfortable condition. Specifically:

- i. Licensee reported to Kari Shepherd that she has 14 small dogs that live inside the home. Some dogs are kept in the dog room, but most of the dogs freely roam the home and all child care use spaces.
- ii. During the on-site inspection on January 15, 2026, Kari Shepherd detected a [REDACTED] in the home.
- iii. The half wall between the living room and kitchen was broken, scratched, and the dogs could jump over it.
- iv. The flooring in the kitchen was scratched and peeling to the extent that the sub-floor was exposed.
- v. On January 15, 2026, Kari Shepherd observed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] throughout the outdoor play area used by the children. On February 9, 2026, Child D told Kari Shepherd that Licensee has at least 12 dogs and that they [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Child D stated children have [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
- vi. On March 25, 2026, Kari Shepherd conducted another on-site inspection at Licensee's home. During the visit, there was an [REDACTED] in the home.

- vii. During the inspection on March 25, 2026, Licensee told Kari Shepherd that she currently has 14 dogs. However, Kari Shepherd observed a total of 20 dogs on the premises. There was [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - viii. On March 25, 2026, the kitchen floor was noticeably dirty with portions of the subfloor exposed.
 - ix. During an interview with Kari Shepherd on March 27, 2026, Child E, Child F, and Child G's Mother stated that she frequently sees dog [REDACTED]. On one occasion, she opened the door to enter the home, and there was [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - x. During an interview on March 27, 2026, Child P and Child Q's Father told Kari Shepherd that he has noticed the [REDACTED] in the home from time to time. He stated that he can sometimes [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Child Q's clothing, and he has Child Q shower when they get home. Child P and Child Q's Father also stated that he has seen [REDACTED]
- c. Licensee allowed Adult Household Member (AHM) 1, her boyfriend, to reside in the home without completing a criminal background check.
- i. During the on-site inspection on January 15, 2026, Licensee told Kari Shepherd that AHM 1 comes to the home every day after work and stays overnight at the home during the weekends. Licensee

acknowledged that she did not have AHM 1 complete a background check as required under licensing rules and statute.

- ii. During an interview with Kari Shepherd on February 5, 2026, AHM 1 stated that he goes to Licensee's home every day after work when child care children are present. AHM 1 told Kari Shepherd that he stays until late evening and then stays overnight on the weekends.
- iii. On February 17, 2026, AHM 1 was fingerprinted, and a background check was completed. AHM 1 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Licensee was notified in writing that AHM 1
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- iv. On March 25, 2026, during the on-site inspection, Kari Shepherd observed AHM 1 enter the home at 3:48 p.m. while children were in care. AHM 1 denied that he lived in the child care home. AHM 1 was still in the home when Kari Shepherd left at 4:45 p.m.
- v. During an interview on March 27, 2026, Child N and Child O's Mother told Kari Shepherd that she frequently sees AHM 1 in the home when she drops her children off at 4:30 a.m.
- vi. On March 27, 2026, MDHHS Worker Miranda Seedorf conducted an unannounced visit at Licensee's home and observed AHM 1 in the home during child care hours with three children present.

- d. Licensee allows people to act as unsupervised child care staff members prior to completing background checks. Specifically:
- i. During the on-site inspection on March 25, 2026, Licensee told Kari Shepherd that she has Person 1 watch the younger children in the home while she walks the older children to school. This takes approximately 25 minutes. Person 1 is [REDACTED] and never completed a background check with the Bureau. Licensee also stated that on one occasion, she left Person 1 and Person 2 alone with the children. Person 2 has not completed a background check.
 - ii. Licensee allowed Child Care Staff Member (CCSM) to work unsupervised at the child care during 2025 and 2026. CCSM did not complete a background check prior to caring for children.
 - iii. During an interview on March 27, 2026, Child E, Child F, and Child G's Mother told Kari Shepherd that throughout February 2026, she consistently saw CCSM, Person 1, and AHM 1 in the home while child care children were present.
 - iv. During an interview on March 27, 2026, Child P and Child Q's Father told Kari Shepherd that on March 10, 2026, he arrived to pick up the children and observed Child Q [REDACTED] Person 1's [REDACTED] watching videos on Person 1's phone. Person 2 was also present.
- e. Licensee failed to provide appropriate care and supervision of children at all times, as demonstrated by the following:

- i. On numerous occasions, Licensee [REDACTED] [REDACTED] children in care.
- ii. Licensee allowed CCSM, Person 1, and Person 2 to care for children while unsupervised prior to completing background checks and required child care-related trainings.
- iii. After being informed that AHM 1 was [REDACTED] child care home, Licensee continued to allow AHM 1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
- iv. Licensee failed to maintain the home in a clean, safe, and comfortable condition for the children in care. The entire home [REDACTED] throughout the outdoor play area. Licensee has been repeatedly cited for the condition of the home, and she continued to expose children to the poor conditions of the home.

COUNT I

The conduct of Licensee, as set forth in paragraphs 6(a)(i) through 6(a)(iv) above, evidences a willful and substantial violation of:

R 400.1913

- (3) Personnel shall not do any of the following:
 - (a) Hit, spank, shake, bite, pinch, or inflict other forms of corporal punishment.

COUNT II

The conduct of Licensee, as set forth in paragraphs 6(b)(i) through 6(b)(x) above, evidences a willful and substantial violation of:

R 400.1932

(1) The structure, premises, and furnishings of a child care home must be in good repair and maintained in a clean, safe, and comfortable condition.

COUNT III

The conduct of Licensee, as set forth in paragraphs 6(e)(i) through 6(e)(iv) 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 IV

The conduct of Licensee, as set forth in paragraphs 6(d)(i) through 6(d)(iv) above, evidences a willful and substantial violation of:

MCL 722.115p

(1) Except as provided in section 5n(14) and (15), a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home shall not allow an individual to be a child care staff member without requesting a criminal history check as required by section 5n.

COUNT V

The conduct of Licensee set forth in paragraphs 6(c)(i) through 6(c)(xi) above, evidences a willful and substantial violation of:

R 400.1903

(7) The licensee shall cooperate with the department by ensuring that all individuals requiring a comprehensive background check are entered into the child care background check system and processed for eligibility as required by section 5n of the act, MCL 722.115n, and R 400.1925.

NOTE:

R 400.1925

(1) Pursuant to section 5n of the act, MCL 722.115n, prior to an individual having any unsupervised contact with children, the department shall determine the individual's eligibility to be any of the following:

(b) An adult member of the household.

COUNT VI

The conduct of Licensee, as set forth in paragraph 6 above, evidences a willful and substantial violation of:

R 400.1903

(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.

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 VII

The conduct of Licensee, as set forth in paragraphs 6(c)(i) through 6(c)(xi) 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:
 - (a) Be suitable to meet the needs of children.

COUNT VIII

The conduct of Licensee, as set forth in paragraph 6 above, provides grounds for revocation pursuant to:

MCL 722.115m

- (2) ...If the department determines that a service, facility, applicant, licensee, child care staff member, or member of the household is not conducive to the welfare of the children, the department shall deny that application or revoke that licensee's license according to section 11.

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 family child care home is summarily suspended.

EFFECTIVE 6:00 p.m., on April 3, 2026, Licensee is ordered not to operate a family child care home at 510 South Sophia Street, Homer, Michigan 49245, 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 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.

Pursuant to MCL 722.125(4), if a person or organization has a license revoked, denied, or refused renewal, the Bureau may prohibit that person or organization from being issued a license and/or being connected, directly or indirectly, with a

**licensed facility for five years after the date of revocation, denial, or refusal to
renew.**

DATED: 04/02/2026



Erika Bigelow, Division Director
Child Care Licensing Bureau

DATED: 04/02/2026



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 Sarah Wildt, DF130281539, consisting of 14 pages, this page included.

JEK