

November 10, 2025

CERTIFIED MAIL

Sara Beckstrom
400 Victory Loop
Sartell, MN 56377-4671

License Number 1055162 FCC

ORDER OF INDEFINITE SUSPENSION

Dear Ms. Beckstrom:

Based on the recommendation of Stearns County Human Services (Stearns County), the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is indefinitely suspending your license to provide family child care at 400 Victory Loop, Sartell, MN. Details of our findings are provided below. Our next steps and your options are also detailed.

Because your license is currently suspended due to a Temporary Immediate Suspension Order as explained below, this indefinite suspension is effective immediately. You are also prohibited from operating as a legally unlicensed child care provider at this time.

REASON FOR INDEFINITE SUSPENSION

1. Commissioner's evaluation of program

In determining whether a licensing action is warranted, DCYF evaluated the facts, conditions, and circumstances concerning your program's operation. This includes consideration of the well-being of children served in your program, available evaluations of your program, and information about the qualifications of caregivers working in your program. Specifically, because you have pending judicial proceedings, DCYF has determined that suspension of your license is appropriate based on the violations identified below and the program evaluation.

Legal Authority: Minnesota Statutes, section 142B.10, subdivision 13.

2. Open ongoing investigation or judicial proceedings

Stearns County received a report regarding your family child care program. The report alleged that a child in your program was physically abused.

As a result of this allegation, DCYF issued an Order of Temporary Immediate Suspension on your family child care license on August 27, 2025. You appealed the order then later dropped the appeal. The Commissioner of DCYF issued a final order affirming the immediate suspension of your license on September 26, 2025. The immediate suspension of your license remains in effect.

There are ongoing judicial proceedings that are related to the report that led to the immediate suspension order. The outcome of the related, ongoing judicial proceedings are necessary to determine if a final licensing sanction will be issued.

DCYF cannot ensure the health and safety of the children served by your program at this time. DCYF has determined that the health, safety, and rights of children in your care continue to be in imminent risk of harm. Therefore, DCYF is suspending your license to provide family child care services.

Legal Authority: Minnesota Statutes, section 142B.18, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), subparagraph (2); and subdivision 4, paragraph (a), subparagraph (7).

3. Failure to comply with licensing laws and rules

Stearns County determined that you failed to fully comply with the laws and rules that apply to licensed family child care program. DCYF has considered the nature, chronicity, or severity of these violations, which are provided below.

Legal Authority: Minnesota Statutes, section 142B.18, subdivision 4, paragraph (a), subparagraph (1).

Nature, history and severity of violations

Previous licensing actions

The following violations summarize the nature of your previous licensing violations. Because these violations are now conclusive, the individual violations are not within the scope of your appeal rights. Please refer to the previously issued correction orders for further details on these violations. If you do not have copies of these orders, contact your Stearns County licensor for assistance. DCYF also considered this history as a factor when it determined that an indefinite suspension is appropriate.

- August 27, 2025, Temporary Immediate Suspension, which determined children were at an imminent risk of harm.
- August 18, 2021, Conditional License/Settlement following the appeal of your revocation. The conditional was for a period of two years.
- July 29, 2021, Order to Pay a Fine for \$500 for a maltreatment determination and as part of the settlement agreement.
- February 19, 2021, Order of Revocation because you used corporal punishment by pulling a child's ear and leaving marks, because you were responsible for maltreatment, and because you were disqualified.
- October 11, 2016, Order to Pay a Fine of \$200 for failure to follow sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) reduction requirements when sleeping an infant.

Severity of violations

Due to the serious and chronic nature of these violations and the conditions in the program, which impact the health and safety of children served in your care, your license to provide family child care services is suspended.

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

You have the right to appeal the indefinite suspension. Your request must be in writing and clearly state that you are requesting a contested case hearing for this matter. Your request must be made before the deadlines provided below. If you do not meet this deadline, you lose your right to an administrative appeal. Your response time starts when you receive this letter.

If you are mailing your request, it must be sent by certified mail and postmarked within 10 calendar days from when you receive this order. Please send it to:

Commissioner, Department of Children, Youth, and Families
Office of Inspector General
Legal Counsel's Office
Attention: Licensing Legal Unit
PO Box 64953
St. Paul, MN 55164-0953

If your request is being personally delivered, it must be received by DCYF within 10 calendar days from when you receive this order. Please bring it to:

Commissioner, Department of Children, Youth, and Families
Office of Inspector General
Legal Counsel's Office
Attention: Licensing Legal Unit
444 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Upon DCYF's receipt of your timely appeal, your case would be scheduled for a contested case hearing in front of an Administrative Law Judge. Following this hearing, the Commissioner of DCYF will issue a final order.

Legal representation at the contested case hearing:

You do not need a lawyer to appeal. However, a lawyer can help you with your appeal. The state or county will not get you a lawyer and will not pay for a lawyer. If you cannot afford a lawyer, you may be able to get free legal advice or help with your appeal. To find out if free help is available, contact: Volunteer Lawyers Network at 612-752-6677; Central Minnesota Legal Services at 612-332-8151; Southern Minnesota Legal Services at 651-222-4731; or go to www.lawhelpmn.org to find a local legal services program that may be able to help you.

You can also find information on contested cases from the Office of Administrative Hearings website at <https://mn.gov/oah/self-help>. Click on Administrative Law Overview, then click on Administrative Law Contested Case Hearing Guide for a list of frequently asked questions.

Operating the program pending the outcome of the appeal:

As discussed above, because the immediate suspension of your license remains in effect, if you appeal the indefinite suspension, you continue to be prohibited from operating pending a final order from the Commissioner of DCYF.

Questions about CCAP

If you are a provider registered to receive Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) payments, this suspension order could impact your ability to receive CCAP funding. If your CCAP registration is closed or denied as a result of this Licensing action, you will get a separate notice(s).

If you have questions about:

- Your CCAP registration, and you get a notice telling you your registration is being closed or denied, contact the agency that sent the notice.
- Billing or payments for specific children, contact the county or CCAP agency where the children get CCAP.

Posting of this Licensing Action

You are required to place this Order of Indefinite Suspension in a place that is clearly noticeable to the people receiving services and all visitors to the facility for two years, even if you appeal.

Prohibition against providing legally unlicensed child care

On August 27, 2025, DCYF issued an Order of Temporary Immediate Suspension to your family child care program, which disqualified you from providing legally unlicensed child care. You remain prohibited from providing legally unlicensed child care even if you appeal this order.

Legal authority in this licensing action

- This action is taken under Minnesota Statutes, section 142B.18, subdivision 4, which describes under which conditions DCYF may suspend a license.
- Minnesota Statutes, section 142B.18, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), which describes under which conditions DCYF may immediately suspend a license.
- When a report remains under investigation, additional information is considered “confidential data” under Minnesota Statutes, section 13.46, subdivision 3.

- A license holder that has received a final order immediately suspending a license continues to be prohibited from operating a program upon receipt of an order to indefinitely suspend the license under Minnesota Statutes, section 142B.18, subdivision 3, paragraph (c).
- Minnesota Statutes, section 142B.05, subdivision 4, provides that a child care provider who has received a sanction under section 142B.18 that has not been reversed on appeal may not operate as an unlicensed child care provider to non-relatives. Operating a prohibited unlicensed family child care is a misdemeanor under Minnesota Statutes, section 142B.05, subdivision 5.
- Minnesota Statutes, section 245.095 defines which programs administered by DCYF are included in the exclusion provision, and further defines "excluded," "individual," and "provider."
- License holders have a right to appeal licensing actions and request a contested case hearing, under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 14 and Minnesota Rules, parts 1400.8505 to 1400.8612.
- The requirement to post this order in a clearly visible location is required under Minnesota Statutes, section 142B.18, subdivision 6.

Questions

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, you may contact Beth Donahue, Supervisor at 651-431-6565.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Keys, Family Child Care Unit Manager
Licensing Division
Office of Inspector General

cc: Cheryl Gerards, Stearns County Human Services