

January 15, 2026

Kelli Dustin, Authorized Agent
Little Inspirations Childcare Center
7059 10th Street North
Oakdale, MN 55128

License Number 1064448 (Child Care Center)

ORDER TO PAY A FINE FOR BACKGROUND STUDY VIOLATION

Dear Kelli Dustin:

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is ordering you to pay a fine of \$400 for two out of three background study violations. Details of our findings are provided below. Our next steps and your options are also detailed.

Reason for the Fine

DCYF is issuing this fine order based on your failure to comply with the following background study requirements:

Background Study Violations Determined on December 15, 2025:

1. While preparing for a licensing review, a DCYF licensor determined that two staff persons provided direct contact services to persons served by the program prior to receiving a notice from DCYF.

SP1 began working in a position allowing direct contact services to persons served by the program on March 10, 2025. You initiated an enhanced background study request for SP1 on March 7, 2025. However, SP1's fingerprints were not submitted within 14 days and the background study was closed on March 22, 2025, and the license holder was informed to immediately remove SP1 from a position allowing direct contact services. You initiated a new background study request for SP1 on April 10, 2025. You did not receive a notice from DHS until April 24, 2025. It was determined through a review of documentation that SP1 worked in a position allowing direct contact services to persons served by the program prior to receiving a notice from DHS on April 24, 2025.

Because you self-corrected the background study violation involving SP1 before the Commissioner discovered the violation, the license holder is not being fined for the background study violation

involving SP1.

SP2 began working in a position allowing direct contact services to persons served by the program on June 3, 2025. You initiated an enhanced background study request for SP2 on May 28, 2025. You did not receive a notice from DHS until June 10, 2025. It was determined through a review of documentation that SP2 worked in a position allowing direct contact services to persons served by the program prior to receiving a notice from DHS on June 10, 2025.

Although you corrected the background study violation involving SP2 before a DCYF licensor became aware of the violations, at least 365 days had not passed since you previously self-corrected the background study for SP1, so DCYF is issuing a fine for SP.

Statute Violated: Minnesota Statutes, section 245C.04, subdivision 1, paragraph (b); section 245C.05, subdivision 2; and section 245C.13, subdivision 2.

2. While preparing for a licensing review, a DCYF licensor determined you failed to repeat a background study for one child care program staff within five years of the staff person's most recent study.

SP3 began working in a position allowing direct contact services to persons served by the program on June 11, 2021. You initiated an enhanced background study request for SP3 on June 8, 2021. SP3's background study expired on February 13, 2025. You initiated new background study request for SP3 on March 3, 2025. However, SP3's fingerprints were not submitted within 14 days and the background study was closed on March 18, 2025, and the license holder was informed to immediately remove SP1 from a position allowing direct contact services. You initiated a new background study request for SP3 on April 30, 2025. However, because SP3 did not submit required documents, you received a notice from DHS stating that SP1 was to be immediately removed from positions allowing direct contact services on May 15, 2025. You did not initiate a new background study for SP3 until September 22, 2025. SP3 worked without a background study from February 13, 2025, until September 22, 2025.

Statute Violated: Minnesota Statutes, section 245C.03, subdivision 5, paragraph (c); section 245C.04, subdivision 1, paragraph (a); section 245C.04, subdivision 1, paragraph (b); and section 245C.05, subdivision 2, paragraph (a).

Fine: \$400 (three background study violations – two fineable at \$200 per violation)

Corrective Action Required: Correct immediately and submit your response through the Provider Hub within 30 days from the date of this letter detailing how compliance has been achieved. You must maintain compliance going forward.

Billing and Payment of the Fine

After 10 calendar days from the date of this letter, DCYF will send you an invoice for the \$400 fine through the Provider Hub. Payment must be made as directed on the invoice.

If you request a contested case hearing, as described below, do not pay the fine at this time. Following the contested case hearing, the Commissioner of DCYF will issue a final order on this matter.

Please note, you may not avoid payment of this fine by closing, selling, or otherwise transferring the license to a third party. If this occurs, you are personally responsible for payment. If you do not pay the fine on or before the date specified on the invoice and you did not request a contested case hearing, as described below, the Commissioner may issue a second fine, may not issue or reissue a license, or may suspend the license until the license holder pays the fine.

Your Right to Appeal

You have the right to appeal this fine. If you choose to appeal this order, you must use the Provider Hub (<https://providerhub.dhs.mn.gov/>) to submit your request. Your request must be made before the deadline provided below. If you do not meet this deadline, you lose your right to an administrative appeal. The timeline to appeal began when this order was issued in the Provider Hub.

Your request for an appeal must be submitted in the Provider Hub within 10 calendar days from the date it was issued in the Provider Hub.

Upon DCYFs' 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.justice4mn.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.

Posting of this Licensing Action

You are required to place this Order to Pay a Fine 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.

Legal Authority for this Licensing Action

- DCYF may impose a \$200 fine for each background study violation under Minnesota Statutes, section 142B.18, subdivision 4, paragraph (c)(4)(iv).
- Minnesota Statutes, section 142B.18, subdivision 4, paragraph (c)(5) states that license holders may not avoid payment of a fine by closing, selling, or transferring a license.
- Minnesota Statutes, section 142B.10, subdivision 14, paragraph (d)(4), states that DCYF shall not issue or reissue a license if the applicant, license holder, or controlling individual has an outstanding debt related to a license fee, licensing fine, or settlement agreement for which payment is delinquent.
- Minnesota Statutes, section 142B.18, subdivision 4, paragraph (c)(2), states that that the license holder shall pay the fine assessed on or before the payment date specified, and if the license holder does not do so the commissioner may issue a second fine or suspend the license until the license holder complies.
- 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 me, at 651-431-6529.

Sincerely,



Donna Gainor, Unit Supervisor
Licensing Division
Office of Inspector General