



BRIGHT FROM THE START

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-5957

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

Bobby D. Cagle, MSW
COMMISSIONER

April 21, 2014

CERTIFIED MAIL # 7013 1090 0000 5589 9485

Ms. Philanna Peterson
Registered Agent
Director
Interfaith Christian Center, Inc.
d/b/a Interfaith Christian Center
3873 Crest Drive
Hephzibah, Georgia 30815

REGULAR MAIL

Ms. Lillie Williams
Chief Executive Officer
Interfaith Christian Center, Inc.
d/b/a Interfaith Christian Center
3602 Morgan Road
Hephzibah, Georgia 30815

RE: Notice of Revocation

Dear Ms. Peterson and Ms. Williams:

On December 20, 2013, the license holder participated in an office conference for non-compliant programs conducted by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (Bright from the Start). That office conference informed the license holder of Bright from the Start's intent to use its enforcement authority and responsibility to take action against child care programs that repeatedly failed to comply with the core rules established by Bright from the Start and had a licensing status of non-compliant for two or more consecutive years. The office conference further reminded the license holder that core rules are those rules that Bright from the Start has identified as posing a greater potential risk to the health and safety of children in care when the core rules are out of compliance. Bright from the Start staff evaluates these rules at routine regulatory visits.

On November 7, 2013, a plan of improvement follow-up visit was conducted at Interfaith Christian Center located at 3602 Morgan Road, Hephzibah, Georgia 30815. Bright from the Start determined that core rule violations continued to exist that had the potential to seriously affect the health and safety of children in care and the facility had not taken adequate measures to correct them and to maintain compliance. These rule violations, in combination with rule violations cited on December 13, 2012, April 16, 2013, June 26, 2013, July 10, 2013, and August 22, 2013, resulted in a licensing status of non-compliant for the facility for the third consecutive year.

Based on the facility's continued non-compliant status, which demonstrates that a correctable deficiency in the operation of the facility has not been corrected within a reasonable time, the license holder is hereby notified that the license to operate Interfaith Christian Center is revoked. Bright from the Start's legal authority for revoking the license is found in O.C.G.A. Sections 20-1A-1 *et seq.* and the Bright from the Start Rules for Child Care Learning Centers, Chapter 591-1-1 of the Official Compilation of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia. The rule violations for which Bright from the Start is revoking the license are attached to this letter as Exhibit "A" and incorporated in this Notice by reference.

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Ms. Peterson
Ms. Williams
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In accordance with O.C.G.A Section 20-1A-10(o), this revocation becomes effective 30 days from receipt of this Notice. The license holder has the right to request a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge at the Office of State Administrative Hearings to appeal this revocation. If the license holder is incorporated, Georgia law may require that the license holder be represented by an attorney at the Office of State Administrative Hearings. The license holder's request for hearing must be made in writing, postmarked within 10 days of receipt of this Notice and sent to:

Ira Sudman
Chief Legal Officer
Bright from the Start
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 754, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

A hearing request stays or suspends the revocation.

If the license holder does not appeal this action within 10 days of receipt of this Notice, the decision to revoke the license will be final and the facility must close within 30 days of receipt of this Notice. Licensure staff will conduct a follow-up visit to verify closure.

Sincerely,



Deidria Bolden
Child Care Services Director for Program Operations

Attachments

cc: Kristie Lewis
Ira Sudman
Elisabetta Kasfir
Candy Prince
Pam Bojo
Jackie Shivers
Falita Flowers
Leslie Truman
Christy McCray
Laura Johns
Pam Stevens
Johnathan Davis
Lynn Barmore
Jennifer Taylor
Elizabeth Holland
State File

Rule Violations for:

Interfaith Christian Center
3602 Morgan Road
Hephzibah, Georgia 30815

1. A. Rule 591-1-1-.25(13) requires that hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be inaccessible to children.

During a licensing study conducted on December 13, 2012, diaper creams and plastic bags were observed in plastic drawers, which were on the floor in the right classroom and a bottle of baby powder was observed sitting on top of the plastic drawers. Also, a plunger was observed to be in the hall bathroom and accessible to the children in care.

This rule was also discussed during technical assistance visits conducted on August 23, 2012, and October 16, 2012. **An enforcement fine was issued for this rule violation on June 3, 2013. This rule violation is no longer appealable.**

B. Rule 591-1-1-.25(13) requires that hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be inaccessible to children.

During a monitoring visit conducted on April 16, 2013, a toilet brush was observed in the bathroom in the back classroom. Also, plastic gloves were observed to be stored on a low, wooden bookshelf in the left classroom within the reach of the children in care.

This rule was also discussed during technical assistance visits conducted on August 23, 2012, and October 16, 2012. **An enforcement fine was issued for this rule violation on June 3, 2013. This rule violation is no longer appealable.**

The failure of center staff to keep hazardous materials and supplies inaccessible to children could possibly place children at risk of harm.

2. A. Rule 591-1-1-.36(6)(d)1. requires that following transportation, for vehicles without child safety alarm devices, a staff person who was present on the vehicle during the trip physically walk through the vehicle and inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats, and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior. The staff person must then sign the passenger checklist with his/her full name, indicating that all of the children have exited the vehicle, and give the checklist to the director or designated staff person at the center who will also check the vehicle as stated above and sign the checklist with his/her full name.

During a monitoring visit conducted on April 16, 2013, transportation records were reviewed for a field trip taken to Skateland of Augusta on April 9, 2013. It was determined that there was no staff signature to document and verify that a first check of the vehicle was conducted at the field trip site or upon return to the center at the conclusion of the trip. In addition, there was no signature of the director or other designated staff person to document and verify that a second check of the vehicle was conducted upon return to the center during this same field trip.

An enforcement fine was issued for this rule violation on June 28, 2013. This rule violation is no longer appealable.

B. Rule 591-1-1-.36(6)(d)1. requires that following transportation, for vehicles without child safety alarm devices, a staff person who was present on the vehicle during the trip physically walk through the vehicle and inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats, and in all compartments or recesses in the vehicle's interior. The staff person must then sign the passenger checklist with his/her full name, indicating that all of the children have exited the vehicle, and give the checklist to the director or designated staff person at the center who will also check the vehicle as stated above and sign the checklist with his/her full name.

During a licensing study conducted on August 22, 2013, transportation records were reviewed. It was determined that the driver did not physically check the vehicle following afternoon transportation from Gracewood Elementary School to the center on August 15, 2013 and August 21, 2013. It was determined that the director or designated staff person did not conduct the second check of the vehicle following afternoon transportation from Gracewood Elementary School to the center on August 15, 2013, August 16, 2013, and August 21, 2013.

A review of transportation records further revealed that the driver did not sign the checklist indicating that the vehicle had been physically checked following afternoon transportation from Gracewood Elementary School to the center on August 15, 2013 and August 21, 2013. It was also determined that the director or designated staff person did not sign the checklist indicating that the second check of the vehicle had been conducted following afternoon transportation from Gracewood Elementary School to the center on August 15, 2013, August 16, 2013, and August 21, 2013.

An enforcement fine was issued for this rule violation on October 1, 2013. This rule violation is no longer appealable.

The failure of staff to conduct a first and second check of the vehicle could possibly place children at risk of harm.

3. **Rule 591-1-1-.36(6)(c)3. requires the driver or other designated person to immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol on the checklist, each time a child gets on and off the vehicle so that each child is accounted for every time the vehicle is loaded or unloaded.**

During a licensing study conducted on August 22, 2013, transportation records were reviewed. It was determined that center staff did not document in writing each time a child got on and off the vehicle when children were transported from Gracewood Elementary School to the center on August 15, 2013, and on August 16, 2013.

An enforcement fine was issued for this rule violation on October 1, 2013. This rule violation is no longer appealable.

The failure of the center staff to document with a check or other mark when children get on and off the vehicle as it occurs could potentially place children at risk of harm.

4. **A. Rule 591-1-1-.32(6) requires that children be supervised at all times.**

During an incident investigation conducted on July 10, 2013, it was determined that children were not supervised on the morning of July 9, 2013, when a fourteen-year-old child left the center without the knowledge of staff and was still missing for several hours. The child was last seen by staff at 7:19 a.m. The staff member allowed the child to go to the bathroom, and she went into the kitchen to get a broom and dust pan. ?? add more info. How did the child leave? How was he returned? Did they report this to the department?

B. Rule 591-1-1-.32(6) requires that children be supervised at all times.

During a plan of improvement follow-up visit conducted on November 7, 2014, it was determined that children were not supervised in that children were left alone in the front right classroom while a staff member prepared lunch. Upon the consultant's arrival to the center, one staff member and five children were observed in the front left classroom. The children were observed to be eating lunch. The staff person was observed to be the only staff person at the facility. The consultant asked the teacher who prepared lunch that day, and the teacher stated that she prepared lunch. The consultant then asked the staff person where the children were while she was preparing lunch, and the staff person stated that she put the children in the front right classroom which was adjacent to the kitchen.

The failure of the center staff to supervise children at all times could potentially place children at risk of harm.

5. **Rule 591-1-1-.36(2)(a) requires an annual vehicle safety inspection check of tires, headlights, horn, taillights, brakes, suspension, exhaust system steering windshields and windshield wipers.**

During a licensing study conducted on December 13, 2012, the center did not have an annual vehicle safety inspection on file for the staff member's car that was being used to transport children. At the time of the visit, the assistant director stated she was using her car to transport the children while the center van was in the shop.

The failure of the center to obtain an annual vehicle safety inspection could possibly place children at risk of harm.

6. **Rule 591-1-1-.36(3)(c) requires the driver or another staff person present on the vehicle to have biennial CPR training and triennial first aid training.**

During a monitoring visit conducted on April 16, 2013, it was observed that the staff person who drove the center vehicle did not have current first aid and CPR training.

The failure of the center to ensure that a staff person is present on the vehicle with current CPR and first aid training could possibly place children at risk of harm.

7. **Rule 591-1-1-.36(6)(c)3.b. requires that the transportation checklist include the initials of the driver or other designated person to verify the arrival and departure times at each location.**

During a monitoring visit conducted on April 16, 2013, it was determined that staff did not initial the transportation checklist to verify the arrival and departure times for a field trip taken to Skateland of Augusta on April 9, 2013.

The failure of a staff person to initial the times of arrival and departure at each location when transporting children could possibly place children at risk of harm.

8. **A. Rule 591-1-1-.36(6)(c)4.a.-b. requires that the staff person on the vehicle responsible for keeping the checklist shall give the completed checklist to the Director or the Director's designated staff person at the center a) immediately upon return to the center at the completion of the trip once the vehicle has been checked or b) immediately upon arrival at the center on the next business day following completion of the trip the vehicle did not return to the center at the end of the trip or if the center was closed when the vehicle returned.**

During a monitoring visit conducted on April 16, 2013, it was observed that the April 9, 2013 passenger checklist for the field trip taken to Skateland of Augusta did not include information regarding who the transportation checklist was turned in to.

B. Rule 591-1-1-.36(6)(c)4.a.-b. requires that the staff person on the vehicle responsible for keeping the checklist shall give the completed checklist to the Director or the Director's designated staff person at the center a) immediately upon return to the center at the completion of the trip once the vehicle has been checked or b) immediately upon arrival at the center on the next business day following completion of the trip the vehicle did not return to the center at the end of the trip or if the center was closed when the vehicle returned.

During a licensing study conducted on August 22, 2013, it was determined that the passenger checklists used to account for children transported from Gracewood Elementary school did not include information regarding who the checklist was turned in to for August 13, 2013 through August 16, 2013 and August 19, 2013 through August 23, 2013.

This rule was also discussed during technical assistance visits conducted on August 23, 2012, and October 16, 2012.

The failure of the staff person responsible for the checklist to give the checklist to the Director or Director's designated staff person upon returning to the center could possibly place children at risk of harm.

9. Rule 591-1-1-.13(2) requires the center to obtain written, signed and dated parental permission prior to a child's participation in a field trip.

During a monitoring and plan of improvement follow up visit conducted on June 26, 2013, it was observed that the center did not obtain parental permission as required.

- Three children did not have permission to participate in a field trip conducted to Chuck E. Cheese on June 4, 2013.
- Two children did not have parental permission to participate in a field trip conducted to Chuck E. Cheese on June 20, 2013.

The failure of the center staff to obtain prior parental approval to children's participation in field trips could potentially place children at risk of harm.

10. A. Rule 591-1-1-.30(1)(a) (formerly Rule 591-1-1-.45) requires a crib that is safety approved in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards shall be provided for each infant.

During a monitoring visit conducted on April 16, 2013, requirements were not met in that three cribs in the front right classroom were observed to be manufactured prior to June 28, 2011 and did not meet the current crib safety requirements.

B. Rule 591-1-1-.30(1)(a) (formerly Rule 591-1-1-.45) requires that a crib that is safety approved in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards shall be provided for each infant.

During a plan of improvement follow-up visit conducted on November 7, 2013, it was determined that the center did not have a crib for a six-month old-child that was present. The child was observed to be placed on a mat to sleep.

The failure of the center staff to place children in cribs that meet current safety standards could potentially place children at risk of harm.

11. Rule 591-1-1-.26(4) requires that fencing material not present a hazard to children and be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the area.

During a monitoring visit conducted on April 16, 2013, fencing was observed to be hazardous as follows:

- The baby gate on the left side of the porch leading to the playground was observed to be down and allowed children access to an area that is not fenced in.
- Fencing on the right side was observed to be disconnected at the top of the fence.
- Fencing near the edge of the playground next to the building was observed to be disconnected at the rail.

This rule was also discussed during technical assistance visits conducted on August 23, 2012, and October 16, 2012.

The failure of the center to ensure that fencing prevents children from leaving the play area and is free from hazards could potentially place children at risk of harm.

12. Rule 591-1-1-.26(6) requires that outdoor equipment be free of hazards such as lead-based paint, sharp corners, rust and splinters.

During a monitoring visit conducted on April 16, 2013, requirements were not met in that a tricycle was observed to be missing a rear wheel.

The failure of the center to ensure that play equipment is free from hazards could potentially place children at risk of harm.

13. Rule 591-1-1-.26(8) requires the playground to be kept clean, free of litter and hazards.

During a monitoring visit conducted on April 16, 2013 the following hazards were observed:

- A cement block was on the playground.
- Moth balls were on the playground, which pose a choking hazard and are toxic if ingested.

The failure of the center to ensure that the playground is free from hazards could potentially place children at risk of harm.