IOWA HHS **Iowa Department of Health And Human Services**

## CHILD CARE COMPLIANT

| Name of Provider | County | |
|---|---|---|
| Tomasa Gomez Perez | Marshall | |
| **Care Address** | **City** | **Zip Code** |
| 523 N 1st St | Marshalltown | 50158 |
| **Mailing Address** | **Mailing City** | **Mailing Zip Code** |
| 523 N 1st St | Marshalltown | 50158 |
| **Phone** | **Email** | |
| 641-751-5790 | | |

| **Date of Complaint:** | 04/25/2023 | **Date of Visit:** | 05/25/2023 |
|---|---|---|---|

**Type of Visit**

[ ] Scheduled [X] Unannounced [ ] N/A

**Compliance Regulation**

[X] Non-Compliance with Regulations Found [ ] Compliance with Regulations Found

**Recommendation for Registration:**

[X] No Changes to registration status recommended

[ ] Revocation of Registration

[ ] Cancellation of Child Care Assistance Provider Agreement

**Category of Care:**

[X] Category A

[ ] Category B

[ ] Category C (with no co-provider)

[ ] Category C (with co-provider)

[ ] Non-registered Child Care Home with CCA Provider Agreement

**Complaint Details:**

Did this complaint result in a serious injury? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did this complaint result in a death to a child? ☐ Yes ☒ No

**Summary of Complaint:**

The Department received a complaint that a child in the care of Tomasa Gomez Perez received two bites from one of her dogs. The complaint also described no Injury/Incident report being completed to share details of the incident with parents.

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**Rule Basis and Findings of Complaint(s):**

Rules:
110.7(1)a "Gives careful supervision at all times."
110.8(1)o "Injury Report forms are maintained for any injury...The forms are completed on the date of the occurrence..."

Findings:
I conducted an unannounced spot check on 5/25/2023 and report the following:

- The provider was familiar with the incident described in the complaint. She explained the young child did not have pets at home, was pretty new to her operation, and was relentless in his pursuit of the dogs. The child frequently grabbed, pulled hair, pulled tail, etc.

- The provider said she did not actually see the dog bite the child, but noticed one of the marks on his cheek later in the day. The parent also showed a second small cut near the child's eyelid later in the day. The provider admitted she did not fill out an incident report, partially because she did not notice the marks right away. The provider indicated the child never cried, and was not very verbal or able to describe being bitten.

- I reminded the provider that grabbing, hugging, tugging at dogs was not an uncommon behavior displayed by young children. If she recognized this child was very drawn to her dogs with this type of behavior, she needed to separate the dogs from access to the children.

- During my visit at the home, another child was grabbing one of her dogs, and the dog gave a soft growl to indicate a dislike in being squeezed by the child. I explained this was a perfect example of her dogs sharing their limit in tolerance to young children grabbing or yanking on them. The dogs were not aggressive towards me as a stranger, or towards the children, however, showed some limits of tolerance to being grabbed.

- The provider has an upstairs gated off where the dogs could go if separation is necessary. I explained to the provider that a second incident would not be good, and would require more drastic changes to the environment or her status as a child development home.

**Resolution and Action Required:**

We are able to establish a child was bitten by one of her dogs as described in the complaint. There is some lapse in careful supervision with this event. There was no serious injury to the child, however, an incident report should have been completed and shared with the parent.

Though her two dogs did not show aggression towards the children or myself, they clearly have some tolerance limits with regards to being grabbed/pulled/wrapped in arms. I offered some suggestions to increase supervision or add separation between the dogs and children. Any future re-occurrences would bring more significant results.

I completed her full annual spot check visit while there.

No further visits are planned at this time.

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| **Consultant's Signature:** | Earl Crow | **Date of Visit:** | 05/25/2023 |
| **Supervisor Signature:** | Sheila Aunspach | **Date of Visit:** | 05/26/2023 |