IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Child Care Complaint

Name of Provider	County	
LaTasha Johnson	Polk	
Care Address	**City**	**Zip Code**
1604 Carpenter AVE	Des Moines	50314
Mailing Address	**Mailing City**	**Mailing Zip Code**
1604 Carpenter AVE	Des Moines	50314
Phone	**Email**	
515-556-7863		

Date of Complaint:		**Date of Visit:**	

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:

[ ] Category A

[X] 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:

On 12/19/19 the Department of Human Services received a complaint regarding Registered Category B Child Development Home provider, LaTasha Johnson. The concern indicated a professional observed a 9 month old infant sleeping on a couch with a sleeping bag.

Rule Basis and Findings of Complaint(s):

Code of Iowa, Chapter 237A / 441 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 110

RULE(S):
441 IAC 110.8(5) "a" The provider shall follow safe sleep practices as recommended by the American Academy of

Pediatrics for infants under the age of one.
Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.
Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.
Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child shall be allowed to sleep in an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat, or items not designed for sleeping.
No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.
No co-sleeping shall be allowed.
Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.
If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician authorization with statement of medical reason is required.

441 IAC 110.8(5) "b" No child shall be allowed to sleep in any item not designed for sleeping including, but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, or bouncy seat.

441 IAC 110.8(5) "c" A crib or crib like furniture which has a waterproof mattress covering and sufficient bedding to enable a child to rest comfortably and which meets the current standards or recommendations from the Consumer Product Safety Commission or ASTM International for juvenile products shall be provided for each child under two years of age if developmentally appropriate. Crib railings shall be fully raised and secured when the child is in the crib. A crib or crib like furniture shall be provided for the number of children present at any one time. The home shall maintain all cribs or crib like furniture and bedding in a clean and sanitary manner. There shall be no restraining devices of any type used in cribs.

FINDING(S):
An unannounced visit was conducted to Ms. Johnson's daycare residence on 12/20/19. Upon knocking on the front door, I received no response but was able to hear children inside the home. I called Ms. Johnson who did answer the phone indicating she was home. While I was waiting for Ms. Johnson to come to the door, I observed an adult male exit the side entrance of the home with what appeared to be a beer bottle in his hand. When the individual saw me, he re-entered the home. Ms. Johnson answered the front door at approximately the same time. I inquired who the individual was and she insisted she, her mother, and daycare children were the only people present in the home and she was not aware of any other individual. I was allowed to observe all rooms and levels of the home and did not locate this individual in the house after initially seeing him exit and then re-enter. Ms. Johnson indicated her mother, Judy Smith, who is an approved household member, has visitors sometimes and eluded that she does not always know if they are coming over. I spoke with Ms. Smith and she initially indicated no one else was in the home and then identified her nephew, Tony, had come over to visit her. She stated she sometimes has people that come over to help her or bring her lunch. She was unable to identify how frequently visitors are present. Ms. Johnson acknowledged that her childcare business offers 24/7 care. It should be noted, Ms. Johnson has a history of struggling to know who is in and out of her home as well as setting/maintaining boundaries that create a calm, structured, and peaceful environment for the daycare children. I discussed with Ms. Johnson that it is her responsibility to be aware of what visitors are in her home at all times and be able to maintain control of the daycare environment. I also discussed the concern and risk factors created by the possibility of a visitor present in the home and consuming alcohol during daycare hours. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Smith denied that any visitor consumes alcohol in the home and that Tony sometimes takes bottles/cans back to the store for redemption.

Regarding the concern of safe sleeping of an infant under the age of 12 months, Ms. Johnson did admit she had an infant sleeping on the couch with a sleeping bag at the time of a professional visit. Ms. Johnson stated the child had not been asleep for more than 15 minutes and she "just didn't think about it" when the professional arrived. I did observe Ms. Johnson to have an appropriate crib available in the home which was set up and contained items such as blankets and pillows. Ms. Johnson cleaned the crib out during our visit and stated she understands all the rules and that she cannot use the couch for sleeping nor can she have blankets/pillows in the crib while an infant is sleeping. I did review all safe sleeping rules again with Ms. Johnson. I also advised about the dangers of teething necklaces and reviewed information regarding recalled products including rock and plays and reclined sleeper products. I advised Ms. Johnson that no recalled product can be used in a registered daycare and teething necklaces are also not allowed, even if children are awake. Ms. Johnson did have an additional mattress in her living room area as she does overnight care and sometimes older children sleep on this mattress. The mattress was propped up against the crib at the time of our visit and I discussed with her that the mattress cannot be leaning on the crib when it is in use. Ms. Johnson agreed to sign a safety plan indicating her agreement to follow all safe sleeping requirements for infants immediately and 100% of the time. She also agreed to voluntarily work with Child Care Resource & Referral to resolve noncompliance regarding safe sleeping of infants.

I had a conversation with Ms. Johnson about the importance of coming into full compliance and maintaining this compliance year round. I emphasized the additional importance of full compliance pertaining to 24/7 care. Ms. Johnson is able to sleep during overnight care and full compliance should be maintained in the event of an emergency and to create the safest environment possible.

Based on professional observation as well as Ms. Johnson's admission, NONCOMPLIANCE is found regarding safe sleeping of infants under 12 months of age.

Resolution and Action Required:

Ms. Johnson must follow the safety plan at all times, failure to follow the safety plan may result in the revocation of her childcare registration and cancellation of her child care assistance agreement.

Ms. Johnson must also voluntarily work with Child Care Resource & Referral and follow through with any services which resolve noncompliance.

A recheck will be completed in January 2020 to ensure the safety plan is being followed and items of noncompliance have been corrected. A full compliance visit was also previously completed in September 2019, so a full compliance visit was not conducted at the time of this complaint.

This report concludes the evaluation of this complaint.

Consultant's Signature:	Melissa Crawford	**Date of Visit:**	12/30/2019
Supervisor Signature:	Jone Staley	**Date of Visit:**	12/30/2019