



Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE COMPLIANT

Name of Provider Joan West	County Cedar	
Care Address 308 3rd ST	City Durant	Zip Code 52747
Mailing Address 308 3rd ST	Mailing City Durant	Mailing Zip Code 52747
Phone 515-408-7998	Email	

Date of Complaint:	11/07/2024	Date of Visit:	11/07/2024
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Type of Visit

☐ Scheduled	☒ Unannounced	☐ N/A
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Compliance Regulation

☒ Non-Compliance with Regulations Found	☐ Compliance with Regulations Found
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Recommendation for Registration:

☒ No Changes to registration status recommended
☐ Revocation of Registration
☐ Cancellation of Child Care Assistance Provider Agreement

Category of Care:

☐ 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
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Did this complaint result in a death to a child?	☐ Yes	☒ No
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Summary of Complaint:

Concerns reported that a pre school aged child left Joan's child care home and walked approximately 2 1/2 blocks away. Child was found by a neighbor. Uncertain how long the child was gone.

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Rule Basis and Findings of Complaint(s):

Code of Iowa, Chapter 237A

441 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 110

441 IAC 110.7(1)The provider meets the following requirements: a. Gives careful supervision at all times. b. Frequently exchanges information with the parent of each child to enhance the quality of care. c. Gives consistent, dependable care. Is capable of handling emergencies. d. Is present at all times, except if emergencies occur or an absence is planned.

This worker arrived to Joan's child development home unannounced on 11/7/2024. HHS worker Jennie Clemens accompanied this worker. Joan was expecting a visit from this worker and knew that it was related to the child getting out of her home earlier in the week. Joan stated that the incident in question happened on Monday 11/4/2024. Joan stated that on 11/4/24, the gate to the kitchen wasn't latched and the gate to the nap room also wasn't in place. This is not a normal circumstance and Joan is not certain why they were not up or latched. Joan stated that she heard the child wake up on 11/4/24. When Joan went to check on him, he wasn't there. Joan thought the child had just went to the back porch when they woke up, however, Joan noticed that the child's coat and shoes were missing. Joan stated that she texted the child's mother to see if she had picked the child up and didn't find Joan upon arrival. The mother denied picking up the child. Joan went outside and a neighbor asked if Joan was missing a child. The neighbor had picked the child up and believed they belonged to Joan. Joan has no idea how long the child was outside. There is documentation in the form of texts and videos from ring cameras that the child was out of Joan's house for at least 10 minutes. The neighbor informed the police that this wasn't the first time a child had gotten out of Joan's home, however, Joan denied this stating that it has never happened before. Joan stated that this is the only 3 year old in attendance at her child care at this time. Joan states that she has five children in care during the day and three additional school agers arrive after school is out.

Following this incident, Joan stated that the mother of the child informed her that she keeps her door locked at home because the child has walked out of their home before. Joan was not aware of this and added "it would have been nice to know this" information in order to ensure safety. Discussed with Joan the need to complete an incident report for this. Joan stated that she understood and had not yet completed this. A safety plan was completed with Joan on this date. The plan stated that Joan would ensure the alarm on the side door remains on at all times. Joan will keep the gates between the two rooms in place and the gate to the kitchen locked. Joan will install hook and eye locks on both the front and side doors for added protection. Joan will sit in the chair closest to the adjoining rooms to ensure supervision and eyes on children who are napping in both rooms. Joan stated that immediately following this incident, she turned the alarms back on. Joan stated that she had alarms installed on her door for her granddaughter over 5 years ago when the child walked out of the door when they were 1 1/2 years old. Joan stated that she didn't have a reason to turn the alarms on again until this occurred. Joan stated that they were turned on immediately when she came back inside with the child on 11/4/2024. On 11/7/2024, Joan emailed pictures to this worker of the newly installed higher chain locks that were installed on both doors. HHS will provide random drop ins to ensure the safety plan is being followed.

Findings:

There is a preponderance of evidence that Joan had a young child leave her home for an undetermined amount of child. The child was found outside by a neighbor.

Resolution and Action Required:

A safety plan was completed with Joan on 11/7/2024.

HHS will provide occasional random drop in visits to ensure the safety plan is being followed at all times.



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Consultant's Signature:	Kathy Huinker	Date of Visit:	11/25/2024
Supervisor Signature:	Sheila Aunspach	Date of Visit:	11/26/2024