



INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Lori Torres, Inspector General

OFFICE: INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES (DCS)
TITLE: DCS EMPLOYEE'S MISUSE OF DCS CREDENTIALS
CASE ID: 2019-10-0263
DATE: March 2, 2020

Inspector General Staff Attorney Lyubov Gore, after an investigation by Inspector General

Special Agent Michael Lepper, reports as follows:

The Indiana General Assembly charged the Office of Inspector General (OIG) with addressing fraud, waste, abuse and wrongdoing in the executive branch of state government. Ind. Code §4-2-7-2(b). The OIG also investigates allegations of criminal activity and Code of Ethics violations within state government. Ind. Code §4-2-7-3.

On October 24, 2019, the OIG received a complaint alleging that a former Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) Family Case Manager (FCM), Jayia Alexander, had used her DCS credentials to enter a school to interview a juvenile (Juvenile), who had been the victim of child abuse, before the assigned DCS Case Manager could interview Juvenile. The complaint also alleged that Alexander had witnessed Juvenile being abused but did not report the abuse. After an internal DCS investigation, DCS terminated Alexander on September 23, 2019, for violating the DCS Code of Conduct, DCS Child Welfare Policies, the State's Information Resources Use Agreement and the State Personnel Discipline Policy.

OIG Special Agent Michael Lepper conducted an investigation into this matter. During the course of the investigation, Special Agent Lepper examined documents related to Alexander's employment and termination. Special Agent Lepper confirmed that DCS FCMs are trained on the

requirements of reporting instances of child abuse and neglect; on disclosure of confidential information, such as the identity of a reporting source; and on personal use of state property. Special Agent Lepper also interviewed school officials, DCS employees and other witnesses, including Juvenile.

Through witness interviews, Special Agent Lepper learned that, at around 5:00 a.m. on September 16, 2019, Juvenile, Alexander, Juvenile's mother (Mother) and another witness (Witness) were at Witness's residence. Witness confirmed that Alexander witnessed Mother pulling out clumps of Juvenile's hair but did not report it to DCS. Witness also confirmed that Alexander went to Juvenile's school the next day and presented her DCS identification in order to obtain access to Juvenile. Mother informed Special Agent Lepper that another individual reported the abuse to the Director of Student Services at Juvenile's school (Director). When Special Agent Lepper interviewed Juvenile, Juvenile told him that she spoke to Alexander at her school for ten to fifteen minutes and that her school officials thought Alexander was the assigned DCS Case Manager.

Special Agent Lepper interviewed Director. Director told Special Agent Lepper that he reported the abuse allegations to DCS, and that, on September 17, 2019, before the assigned Assessment Case Manager could come to the school, Alexander arrived and presented her DCS credentials to Director under the guise of being the assigned DCS Case Manager. Director stated that he granted Alexander access to Juvenile and that Alexander improperly revealed to Juvenile that Director was the one who had reported the abuse allegations to DCS. Director explained that, prior to leaving the school, Alexander advised him to provide Juvenile with "services." Director then called DCS to report Alexander's visit because he was concerned for Juvenile's welfare.

Special Agent Lepper also conducted interviews of the DCS Assessment Unit Supervisor and Assessment Case Manager assigned to investigate the abuse allegations involving Juvenile. The Assessment Case Manager explained to Special Agent Lepper that she came to the school shortly after Director's phone call, and she interviewed Juvenile. According to the Assessment Case Manager, Juvenile admitted that she spoke to Alexander and that Alexander had been present when Mother abused Juvenile. Through additional interviews with Alexander's supervisors, Special Agent Lepper learned that Alexander was off on sick leave from DCS at the time these events occurred.

The OIG submitted the results of this investigation to the Marion County Prosecutor's Office. On February 24, 2020, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office charged Alexander with Obstruction of a Child Abuse Investigation, as a Class A Misdemeanor under Ind. Code § 31-33-22-2(b); Failure to Make a Report, as a Class B Misdemeanor under Ind. Code § 31-33-22-1(a); and Requesting or Obtaining Child Abuse or Neglect Information Under False Pretenses, as a Class B Misdemeanor under Ind. Code § 31-33-22-2(a). Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

Dated: March 2, 2020

APPROVED BY:



Lori Torres, Inspector General