

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION P.O. BOX 2120 RICHMOND, VA 23218-2120

Wonder Land Enrichment Center, Inc. C/O Carol Maddox, President 74 Quicks Mill Road Verona, Virginia 24482 Petitioner,

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File No.: ENF_1109421_CDC_062524AH

Virginia Department of Education, Respondent

FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION AND ORDER

This licensing case has been submitted to me pursuant to the *Code of Virginia*, Title 22.1, Chapter 14.1, § 22.1-289.022 and §§ 2.2-4000 *et seq.*, of the Virginia Administrative Process Act, as Superintendent of Public Instruction for issuance of a Final Administrative Decision and Order. I find that the Department has complied with all required procedures, and both parties, by counsel, timely filed exceptions letters to the Superintendent of Instruction, related to the Report of the Hearing Officer.

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 2.2-4020(E), this decision shall be served upon the parties, become a part of the record, and briefly state or recommend the findings, conclusions, reasons, or basis therefor upon the evidence presented by the record and relevant to the basic law under which the agency is operating together with the appropriate order, license, grant of benefits, sanction, relief, or denial thereof.

In considering this matter, I have reviewed the record that includes: (1) the Notice of Intent dated August 13, 2024 that notified Wonder Land Enrichment Center, Inc. of the Department's Office of Child Care Health and Safety's (the Department) initial determination to deny renewal of the license to operate a child day center, specifically Wonder Land Enrichment Center, Inc., 74 Quicks Mill Road, Verona, Virginia 24482; (2) the Final Order issued by the Department November 7, 2024, in favor of the Department's decision, that included the results of the informal conference conducted September 3, 2024, pursuant to the *Code of Virginia* § 2.2-4019; (3) Wonder Land Enrichment Center, Inc.'s appeal to the administrative hearing under the *Code of Virginia* § 2.2-4020; (4) the findings and recommendation by Thomas E. Wray, who served as the Hearing Officer ("the Hearing Officer") and conducted a formal administrative hearing on April 16, 2025, in favor of the Department's decision, as required under the *Code of Virginia* § 2.2-4020; (5) the transcript of the formal administrative hearing; and (6) the Administrative Hearing Officer's Order for Pre-hearing Conference; (7) the exhibits admitted into evidence at the formal administrative hearing, which are included in the transcript, all documents on the record also being attached to this decision, absent those documents that have been sealed for the record.

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia* § 2.2-4020(D), counsel for Wonder Land Enrichment Center, Inc., and counsel for the Department were informed by letter from the Office of Child Care Health and Safety dated May 12, 2025, that any exceptions to the Hearing Officer's recommended findings and decision were to be filed within ten days from receipt of that letter. Both parties timely submitted Exceptions.

DECISION

I, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, hereby, pursuant to the evidence reviewed in the record, defer to and accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer, and declare Wonder Land Enrichment Center, Inc.'s license to operate a child day center denied, effective the date of this Final Administrative Decision and Order. In so finding, I adopt the findings of fact as set out

Final Administrative Decision and Order Wonder Land Enrichment Center, Inc. ENF_1109241_CDC_062524AH Page 2 of 5 by the Hearing Officer. In addition, I have taken into account the Exceptions filed by the parties, none of which has a material affect on the outcome. I note that the Exceptions filed by Wonder Land Enrichment Center, Inc., include additional argument, which I have also considered, but find unpersuasive. I rely on the Hearing Officer to evaluate the evidence, including the weight of the evidence, and the credibility and demeanor of the witnesses.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 22.1-289.022 (A), the Superintendent may deny the renewal of the license of any child day program or family day system that violates any provision of this chapter or fails to comply with the limitations and standards set forth in its license. The record in this case supports the finding of violations as set out in the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. I conclude that these violations warrant the denial of the license renewal, and that Wonder Land has failed to comply with the limitations and standards as set forth in the license to operate a child day center.

<u>ORDER</u>

Based upon the findings of fact upheld in the record, and conclusions of law, the application and request for renewal of the license to operate a child day center for Wonder Land Enrichment Center, Inc. is DENIED.

Effective ten business days from the date of issuance of this Final Administrative Decision and Order, Wonder Land Enrichment Center, Inc., must close because the license has effectively expired and will not be renewed. This decision is final, and any further appeal does not toll the time for compliance.

Final Administrative Decision and Order Wonder Land Enrichment Center, Inc. ENF_1109241_CDC_062524AH Page 3 of 5 Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-289.024, when the issuance of a license has been refused by the Superintendent, the applicant shall not thereafter for a period of six months apply again for such license.

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 2.2-4023, Administrative Process Act, final orders may be recorded, enforced, and satisfied as orders of a circuit court.

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-289.026, any circuit court having jurisdiction in the county or city where the principal office of any child day program or family day system is located shall, at the suit of the Superintendent, have jurisdiction to enjoin its operation without a license required by this chapter; and

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-289.027, any operation of a child day program without a license is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia* § 2.2-4020, a party may file a petition for reconsideration of an agency's final decision. The petition shall be filed with the agency not later than 15 days after service of the final decision and shall state the specific grounds on which relief is requested.

A timely filed petition for reconsideration shall not suspend the execution of the agency decision nor toll the time for filing a notice of appeal under Rule 2A:2 of the Rules of Supreme Court of Virginia.

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Wonder Land Enrichment Center, Inc., has thirty (30) days from the date of service or receipt of service, whichever occurs first, to appeal this decision by filing a proper Notice of Appeal with the undersigned. Timely appeals from an Administrative Hearing will be heard in the Commonwealth's Circuit Court of appropriate jurisdiction.

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By: <u>Uniffernation</u> Superintendent of Public Instruction, or authorized agent DATED: JML 11, 2025

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