

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

In re: Blossoming Dreamers Academy Inc.
3353 Dunn Ave Unit 1-2
Jacksonville, FL 32218
License ID# C04DU1665

Case No. 26-108-CF

EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDER

This cause is before me for entry of an Emergency Suspension Order pursuant to Section 120.60(6), Florida Statutes. This order immediately suspends the license of BLOSSOMING DREAMERS ACADEMY INC. ("Blossoming Dreamers" or "Facility"), based on the following:

Introduction

1. The State of Florida, Department of Children and Families has jurisdiction over the operation of licensed child care facilities under Sections 402.301 – 402.319, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 65C-22, Florida Administrative Code. Section 402.301, Florida Statutes, provides in pertinent part:

It is the legislative intent to protect the health, safety, and well being of the children of the state and to promote their emotional and intellectual development and care. Toward that end:

(1) It is the purpose of ss. 402.301-402.319, F.S. to establish statewide minimum standards for the care and protection of children in child care facilities, to ensure of these standards, and to approve county administration and enforcement to regulate conditions in such facilities through a program of licensing.

Chapter 65C-22, Florida Administrative Code, was adopted to implement the provisions of Sections 402.301-402.319, Florida Statutes, to protect the health, safety, and well-being of children of the state and to promote their emotional and intellectual development and care.

2. The Department issued license number C04DU1665 to Blossoming Dreamers to operate a child care facility located at 3353 Dunn Ave Unit 1-2, Jacksonville, FL 32218. A standard license was issued on April 8, 2026. On June 2, 2026, the facility was put on provisional status because there was no credentialed director. The Facility is owned and operated by Rose Tavarez-Paulino.

Immediate Serious Danger to Public Health, Safety or Welfare and Violations of Child Care Standards

3. Section 120.60(6), Florida Statutes, provides for emergency suspension of a license if there is an immediate, serious danger to the public health, safety or welfare. Blossoming Dreamers has violated important safety provisions in chapter 402, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 65C-22, Florida Administrative Code which pose an immediate, serious danger to public health, safety and welfare.

4. Section 402.305(12)(a), Florida Statutes, states:

Minimum standards for child discipline practices shall ensure that age-appropriate, constructive disciplinary practices are used for children in care. Such standards shall include at least the following requirements:

1. Children shall not be subjected to discipline which is severe, humiliating, or frightening.
2. Discipline shall not be associated with food, rest, or toileting.
3. Spanking or any other form of physical punishment is prohibited.

Further, section 2.8F. of the Child Care Facility Handbook ("Handbook") (incorporated into Chapter 65C-22, Florida Administrative Code) prohibits the following discipline techniques in a child care facility:

1. The use of corporal punishment/including, but not limited to:

- a) Hitting, spanking, shaking, slapping, twisting, pulling, squeezing, or biting;
 - b) Demanding excessive physical exercise, excessive rest, or strenuous or bizarre postures;
 - c) Compelling a child to eat or have in his/her mouth soap, food, spices, or foreign substances;
 - d) Exposing a child to extremes temperature;
 - e) Rough or harsh handling of children, including but not limited to: lifting or jerking by one or both arms; pushing; forcing or restricting movement; lifting or moving by grasping clothing; covering a child's head.
2. Isolating a child in an adjacent room, hallway, closet, darkened area, play area, or any other area where the child cannot be seen or supervised.
 3. Binding, tying or restrict movement, or taping the mouth;
 4. Using or withholding food or beverages as a punishment;
 5. Toilet learning/training methods that punish, demean, or humiliate a child;
 6. Any form of emotional abuse, including rejecting, terrorizing, extended ignoring, isolating, or corrupting a child;
 7. Any abuse or maltreatment of a child;
 8. Abusive, profane, or sarcastic language or verbal abuse, threats, or derogatory remarks in front of the child or about the child or child's family;
 9. Placing a child in a crib/portable crib for a time-out or for disciplinary reasons.

5. The Department has found evidence of multiple incidents of inappropriate discipline, including the use of corporal punishment, in violation of section 402.305(12)(a), Florida Statutes, and section 2.8F of the Handbook. Specifically:

- a. During a routine inspection on June 23, 2026, a Licensing Specialist observed a child yelling, "Let go of me" while an employee responded loudly, "No, I am not going to let go of you; we do not throw toys at our friends." The child continued to state, "I am going to tell my mommy" while crying. Upon entering the classroom to assess the situation, the Licensing Specialist observed the employee seated at a table while tightly holding

both of the child's wrists, physically restraining the child. Facility staff were admonished by the Licensing Specialist to release the child and informed that such restraint and harsh tone were not appropriate forms of discipline for the children in care.

- b. Video evidence on multiple dates shows staff yanking children up by their arms, grabbing children, and running children into the corner.
- c. A 4-year-old child disclosed being spanked by Ms. Tavaréz-Paulino's husband, Victor Cruz¹. Video evidence shows Mr. Cruz and the child going to a corner that is off screen, and the child returning into view, holding his buttocks. The video also shows a staff member observing the incident with a concerned look on her face and Ms. Tavaréz-Paulino observing the incident but not doing anything to intervene. Ms. Tavaréz-Paulino and that staff member refused to admit that the child was spanked; however, Ms. Tavaréz-Paulino admitted that Mr. Cruz spoke harshly with the child and threatened him with corporal punishment for his behavior. The staff member said that Mr. Cruz grabbed the child aggressively by both arms.
- d. Video evidence shows a staff member², Terrell Styles, inappropriately restraining a child, A.A., on the floor for a prolonged period of time. Ms. Tavaréz-Paulino stated an incident report was completed regarding the incident, but no evidence of such a report was located by the Department.

6. Section 2.4.1. of the Handbook states:

¹ Pursuant to Chapter 435, Florida Statutes, all child care facility staff and volunteers must pass background screening prior to working in the Facility. Mr. Cruz did not have background screening.

² This staff member also did not have the required background screening as discussed more thoroughly below.

- a. Child care personnel must position themselves in the outdoor play area so that all children can be observed and directly supervised.
- b. Child care personnel must be assigned to provide direct supervision to a specific group of children and be with that group of children at all times. Children must never be left without child care personnel supervision inside or outside the facility, in a vehicle, or at a field trip location.
- c. Supervision standards apply at all times away from the child care facility, including during field trips, outdoor play, and when picking up or dropping off children at designated locations, such as bus stops, school, or a child's home. For school-age children, personnel must know where the children are and what they are doing at all times and capable of responding to emergencies including when children are separated from their group.
- d. At all times, lighting must allow child care personnel to see and supervise children while in care.
- e. A program is responsible for the supervision of a child until an authorized individual retrieves the child from the program. A child shall not be released to any person other than the person(s) authorized or in the manner authorized in writing by the custodial parent or legal guardians. All individuals authorized to pick up a child must be identified in writing prior to release by the custodial parent or legal guardian to the program, and the program must verify the individual picking up the child is authorized by using a picture form of identification. Each child transported must be dropped at the designated location as agreed upon by the provider and the custodial parent/legal guardian and released to an authorized individual. . . .

7. The Department has found evidence of multiple incidents of inadequate supervision in violation of section 402.305(12)(a), Florida Statutes, and section 2.8F of the Handbook. Specifically:

- a. Video evidence on June 24, 2026, shows a one-year-old child, A.A., walking on the sidewalk outside the Facility playground. A Good Samaritan attempted to assist, but before the Good Samaritan reached the child, Facility staff member, Jaylen Sinclair, realized the child was gone and

retrieved the child. The Good Samaritan continued to monitor the child and saw Ms. Sinclair on her cell phone, and not actively supervising the children on the playground. Video footage also shows Ms. Sinclair using her phone instead of actively supervising the children. This happened in the presence of Ms. Tavaréz-Paulino, who did not take any action to correct or even address Ms. Sinclair. Ms. Tavaréz-Paulino denied having knowledge of this incident despite the video showing she was present. There was no incident report for this incident.

- b. Video evidence shows two (2) children, S.J. and A.C. fighting each other in the presence of Ms. Tavaréz-Paulino. She did nothing to stop the children. When asked about why she did not intervene, Ms. Tavaréz-Paulino stated that she expected the staff to but admitted the staff “never stop anything.”
- c. Video evidence from June 26, 2026, reflects:
 - i. Around 11:30 a.m., a physical altercation between staff members occurred in the presence of the children in care. Children were left unsupervised while five (5) staff members restrained one (1) staff member. Ms. Tavaréz-Paulino failed to appropriately discipline the staff and permitted them to return to work after the altercation.
 - ii. Children were left on the playground alone.
 - iii. Two children were fighting each other, kicking and hitting each other in front of four (4) staff members, who did not take any action to stop the fighting.
 - iv. Children were freely entering and leaving the building.

- v. Children were not separated by age groups. At least two (2) infants were observed laying on the floor among preschool children. This group was supervised by one (1) staff member, while other staff were leaving the area to other parts of the Facility. The staff member did not appear to have control over the children as two (2) children are seen climbing up and down a bookshelf, and infants are seen lying on the floor while other children were running around with toys scattered over the floor.
 - vi. A young toddler was lifting and carrying an infant from one area of a classroom to another.
 - vii. The Facility is one large room with half walls dividing the sections, including an office area. The video shows staff sitting in the office area or at tables ignoring the children, while they talk among themselves during various incidents. When the Licensing Specialist addressed these issues with Ms. Tavaréz-Paulino she was dismissive of the deficiencies and minimized the serious risk of harm to the children in care.
- d. Video evidence and personal observation of Department staff show the Facility has failed to provide the legally required ratio of staff to children in each room, at all times.
 - e. Video evidence shows a lack of attentiveness to crying infants.
 - f. A staff member reported that other staff frequently leave their classroom area which results in children being left alone.

- g. While discussing concerns regarding the attentiveness of staff, Ms. Tavaréz-Paulino admitted that her staff are not the best suited to provide care to children. Despite knowing this, she continued to allow her staff to care for children and did not take corrective action until the Department became involved.
 - h. The Department discovered that Ms. Tavaréz-Paulino is also using her private home to provide care to children. On July 2, 2026, two students enrolled in the Facility were being cared for at her home, by her husband, who is not background screened.
8. Chapter 435, Florida Statutes, prohibits unscreened individuals from supervising children in care. Section 435.06(2)(a), Florida Statutes, provides:
- An employer may not hire, select, or otherwise allow an employee to have contact with any vulnerable person that would place the employee in a role that requires background screening until the screening process is completed and demonstrates the absence of any grounds for the denial or termination of employment. If the screening process shows any grounds for the denial or termination of employment, the employer may not hire, select, or otherwise allow the employee to have contact with any vulnerable person that would place the employee in a role that requires background screening unless the employee is granted an exemption for the disqualification by the agency as provided under s. 435.07.
9. The Department found the following violations of section 435.06(2)(a), Florida Statutes:
- a. The Facility allowed at least two unscreened individuals to care for children at the Facility. The owner's husband, Mr. Cruz, and staff member, Terrell Styles, did not have the required background screening. The two (2) unscreened individuals were not removed from the Facility until the

Department began investigating these matters.

- b. The Facility has been unable to keep consistent staff that meet background screening requirements.

10. Handbook section 6.5 requires a child care facility to obtain written consent before providing prescription or non-prescription medication to a child.

11. The Department found the following violations of section 6.5 of the Handbook:

- a. A staff member reported that Ms. Travarez-Paulino gives the children melatonin. Department staff received a copy of a text message between Ms. Travarez-Paulino and the staff member discussing giving two (2) children melatonin. In the message, Ms. Travarez-Paulino asks the staff member where the “candy”³ is as two (2) of the children would not sleep. The staff member asked if she should be giving melatonin and she replied, “def not but he has to sleep. He’s not letting the infants sleep or the toddlers He needs help resting.” When confronted about the text message, Ms. Travarez-Paulino said she was joking but admitted to thinking about giving the children melatonin. She claimed that she takes the melatonin an hour before she goes to sleep and admitted that she has taken the melatonin while actively supervising children in care.
- b. A bottle of melatonin⁴ was found unsecured on site in a grocery bag, but no parental consent forms were found. Additionally, the parent of one the children identified in the text message confirmed that she did not give

³ Ms. Travarez-Paulino identified in the text message that she was referring to melatonin with this reference.

⁴ The bottle contained melatonin in an adult dosage.

consent for her child to be given melatonin.

12. The Department also has serious concerns about the financial viability of the Facility that could impact the health, safety and welfare of the children in care. The Facility is in financial distress and facing eviction. The Department reviewed court filings claiming Ms. Travez-Paulino has not paid rent since February 2026. A court order required her to pay \$50,000.00 by July 1, 2026. She admitted she has not paid the rent and confirmed she did not make the required payment on July 1. She believes the case will be thrown out. Further, during the Department's investigations, Ms. Travez-Paulino admitted to not being able to buy necessary items to comply with licensing requirements due to financial troubles. Finally, during interactions with her, she appeared to be more concerned with making money than providing for the health and safety of the children. For example, Department staff discussed with her the idea of limiting her hours to ensure she had adequate staffing. She did not want to do this because she would lose money.

13. During the course of the Department's investigation of the Facility, Ms. Travez-Paulino has shown a complete disregard for the governing regulations which ensure the health, safety and welfare of children in child care facilities, and does not appear to appreciate the seriousness of the situation. She has shown little to no accountability or desire to correct identified inadequacies. She has also displayed an inability to act in the moment to guide or correct her staff in order to provide for the safety and well-being of children in the Facility's care.

Necessity of Suspension/Least Restrictive Means

14. The foregoing facts present an immediate serious danger to the public health, safety and welfare that requires emergency suspension of the facility's child care

license in order to mitigate the imminent threat posed to the children by the use, and threat of use, of physical or corporal punishment, egregious lack of supervision and disregard for the children's safety, inappropriate distribution of medication, and indifferent attitude and lack of accountability displayed by the facility's owner/operator. The serious threats to the safety and well-being of the children and failure to protect can reasonably be expected to continue as past conduct is the best indicator of future behavior. Moreover, despite being observed by licensing staff, and confronted by the staff on a licensing inspection visit, the owner operator showed no contrition, nor indication she would conform her conduct to the law.

15. There is no less restrictive alternative in this circumstance. Since learning of the safety concerns at the Facility, the Department commenced investigations and has had regular visits at the Facility to ensure the safety of the children. The Department is unable to continue this level of monitoring and oversight for an extended period of time. Without this oversight, the Department is unable to ensure the safety of the children at the Facility. No other licensing action available to the Department provides the immediate cessation of operations that is necessary to protect the safety of the children attending this child care facility. Additionally, it is not just the conduct of one staff member that presents an imminent threat to the safety of the children; therefore, action that could prohibit a single individual's presence at the Facility is not adequate.

Fairness of Procedure

16. The procedure used by the Department in this instance is fair under the circumstances of this case. The facts above present an immediate serious danger to the health, safety and welfare of the children in the care of the Facility. This type of act, pattern

of concealment, and disregard for statutes and rules will likely continue unless emergency action is taken to suspend the license. The Department's actions are only those necessary to protect the public interest. As described below, the Department will promptly issue an administrative complaint to the Facility pursuant to sections 120.60(6) and 402.310, Florida Statutes, to revoke its license and any other administrative actions deemed appropriate. The administrative complaint will afford the Facility a point of entry into an administrative proceeding as required by section 120.60(6)(c), Florida Statutes. In the event on-going investigations establish that the operation of the licensed child care facility would not place children served by the Facility at risk of harm, the Department may rescind this Emergency Order.

Issuance of Administrative Complaint

17. The Department shall forthwith issue an administrative complaint to the Facility pursuant to sections 120.60(5) and 402.310, Florida Statutes, to revoke the facility's license.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

18. The license number C04DU1665 issued to Blossoming Dreamers to operate a child care facility is suspended effective July 5, 2026 pursuant to Section 120.60(6), Florida Statutes. The Department shall hand-deliver this order to Blossoming Dreamers and document such delivery.

19. Upon receipt of this order, Blossoming Dreamers shall post this Order on its premises in a place that is conspicuous and visible to the public.

20. The Department shall promptly file an administrative complaint against Blossoming Dreamers based upon the facts set out in this Emergency Suspension Order

and provide notice to Blossoming Dreamers of the right to a hearing under section 120.57, Florida Statutes, at the time that such action is taken.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, this 5th day of July, 2026.

K. Williams

Kathryn Williams, Deputy Secretary
State of Florida, Department of Children and
Families

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

THIS ORDER CONSTITUTES FINAL AGENCY ACTION AND MAY BE APPEALED BY A PARTY PURSUANT TO SECTION 120.68, FLORIDA STATUTES, AND RULES 9.110 AND 9.190, FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE. SUCH APPEAL IS INSTITUTED BY FILING ONE COPY OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL WITH THE AGENCY CLERK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, AND A SECOND COPY ALONG WITH FILING FEE AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW, IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL WHERE THE PARTY RESIDES OR IN THE FIRST DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL. THE NOTICE OF APPEAL MUST BE FILED (RECEIVED) WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RENDITION OF THIS ORDER.⁵

⁵The date of the “rendition” of this Order is the date that is stamped on its first page.

Copies furnished to the following via U.S. Mail on date of Rendition of this Order.

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