



**STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF THE WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EMPIRE STATE PLAZA  
AGENCY BLDG. 2, 16<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12223  
(518) 474-1010**

**61 BROADWAY, SUITE 2100  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006  
(212) 635-3150**

**65 COURT STREET, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202  
(716) 847-7118**

**LETIZIA TAGLIAFIERRO  
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

September 30, 2020

Sheila J. Poole  
Commissioner  
New York State Office of Children  
and Family Services  
52 Washington Street  
Rensselaer, New York 12144

Re: NYS IG 0736-172-2019

Dear Commissioner Poole:

In March 2019, The City University of New York alleged to the Office of the New York State Inspector General that a higher education assistant at York College had issued students and others invalid cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificates. The Inspector General investigated this allegation and found several instances of misconduct by the York College employee, which included his issuance of forged American Red Cross CPR certificates to attendees of his CPR classes.

One such recipient of an invalid CPR certificate was an individual who works as an assistant in a family day care home located in Jamaica, Queens. This individual, who received CPR training from the York College employee, subsequently submitted the invalid CPR certificate to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) as part of the family day care's registration for the period March 5, 2018 through

March 4, 2022. The investigation found no evidence by which to conclude this individual was aware her CPR certificate was forged.

Pursuant to New York State Social Services Law section 390-A(5)(a) and OCFS regulations, at least one employee of a family day care home must hold a valid CPR certification. The investigation found that while the family day care home assistant lacked a valid CPR certificate, the owner of the family day care home had received CPR training and submitted a valid CPR certificate to OCFS in the registration application for the March 5, 2018 through March 4, 2022 period. The owner's CPR certificate was issued through the Emergency Care & Safety Institute.

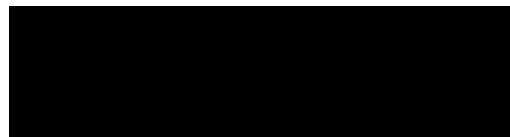
Although OCFS had not retained previous application packages submitted by the family day care home for review by the Inspector General, OCFS advised that an application had been submitted in 2010 but withdrawn in 2011 because the owner failed to submit all documentation required for licensing. According to the owner, the family day care home began operating in 2013.

Notably, the validity of American Red Cross and Emergency Care & Safety Institute CPR certificates can be determined by merely checking the Certificate ID found on the face of the document on the respective websites. In the instant investigation, the assistant's Certificate ID was issued to another individual.

Given the above findings, I recommend that OCFS assess its process for reviewing family day care home registration applications and the validity of required credentials such as CPR certificates. Additionally, I recommend that OCFS revise its CPR certification policy to include affirmations of validity from owners covering the period of registration. Further, I recommend that OCFS review CPR certificates submitted by family day care home applicants for the last two years to ensure appropriate credentials are in place.

Please advise me of the results of your review and any action taken by your agency in response to these recommendations within 45 days of the date of this letter. If you require further information, please contact Deputy Inspector General Jessica Silver at 212.635.3150.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Letizia Tagliaferro  
Inspector General

Cc: Suzanne Miles-Gustave, Esq.  
Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel