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Mom Talks About Alleged Daycare Abuse

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Web produced by: [Mark Sickmiller](#)

Photographed by: [9News](#)

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A Covington daycare center remains closed after allegations that a teacher abused a baby boy.

The daycare has been at South Side Baptist Church for 40 years with no reported problems.

Now, a teacher has been suspended, police have started an investigation, and parents of 120 children are scrambling to find other care.

The mother of the alleged victim, a nine-and-a-half-month-old boy, says she wasn't told of the incident right away and now she's sharing her frustrations with 9News.

"At first I was scared and then when I found out that everything was okay now I'm very, very, very, very mad. Very angry," said mother Emily Burke.

Burke says she wasn't told of the alleged abuse until 24-hours after it happened.

"There was one teacher that was witnessed picking my child up by the shoulders and shaking him and yelling in his face to shut up. Then, once he didn't, the teacher took him over to the sink and put his head under the running faucet water -- repeatedly asking him 'is this going to shut you up now?'" Burke told 9News.

Burke's son is doing fine after the alleged abuse.


The day care staff reported the incident to the state.

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Emily Burke talks with 9News reporter Tom McKee (WCPO/WCPO.com)



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Kentucky officials immediately shut the center down -- indefinitely.

"It was reported within the time frame, but it wasn't reported in as timely a manner as they would have liked to have had it happen," said South Side Baptist pastor David Foley.

Foley says the day care has operated for 40-years and he wants that to continue.

"We want parents to know and understand that when their children are here it is their safety and concern that is at heart -- first and foremost," he said.

Pastor Foley says center policies are already being restructured.

"We're sorry that this has happened, but again this was done for the safety of their children, and this is the legal way to do things and that's what we've got to be concerned with," Foley told 9News.

The woman who was allegedly responsible for the abuse has been fired, 9News has learned.

There's no word on when day care operations will resume.

Pastor Foley hopes all the children will return.

Emily Burke's child won't be among them.

"No, he will never see the inside of that day care again whether she's there or not," she said.

Emily Burke didn't want her son shown for this story.

She says she believes he was crying because he was just getting his first two lower teeth.

Covington police say they just received the state report and are proceeding with an investigation.



A sign on the door states the daycare is closed
(WCPO/WCPO.com)



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