

MEDIA ADVISORY

Naperville attorney, John J. Malm, has been retained by the parents of a Downers Grove child who was mistreated by employees of the Little People Learning Center in Downers Grove, Illinois on January 14, 2019. The infant, then eleven months old, was repeatedly force-fed by employees of the day care facility. The incident of abuse and child endangerment is currently the subject of a Downers Grove Police investigation.

Mr. Malm and his law firm have been retained to investigate and pursue civil claims against Little People Learning Center and the accused employees, arising out of the battery and mistreatment the baby suffered when she was in the hands of day care workers. According to information revealed by a police investigation, day care workers tilted the infant's head backwards and force-fed her, as she cried. Day care workers repeated this conduct over and over, during a period of approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

Attention was first called to the incident in January after an employee of Little People Learning Center alerted the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) of the incident. A DCFS investigation is now pending.

According to Mr. Malm: "Parents who place their trust in a day care facility should be able to go to work without worrying about the safety and well-being of their baby. It is unacceptable that a day care worker, let alone three of them, would endanger the health and safety of an infant, as they are accused of doing in the charges filed following the Downers Grove Police investigation. It is upsetting to my clients to read in the news, as we all did, that Little People Learning Center now, even after firing three of its own employees, continues to describe the incident as nothing more than a 'feeding infraction.' We believe that evidence will show it was something worse."

According to Mr. Malm, day care facilities like Little People Learning Center in Downers Grove, have a responsibility to exercise reasonable care when hiring, training, and supervising employees, to ensure that the children in their care are safe, and to refrain from conduct that manifests an utter indifference for the safety of a child. When day care facilities fail to do what is required, or choose to take careless or reckless action that puts a child's safety at risk, they are responsible. Mr. Malm encourages anyone who believes a child may be a victim of abuse, neglect, or battery, to seek medical attention, and then contact DCFS, so that a thorough investigation can be completed. "If you see something, say something. Doing so is important, not only for the safety of your child, but to help ensure the safety of other children as well."

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