



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on January 1, 2026

ICE: Reporter's Post Suggesting Those Investigating Fraud Might Be Shot Endangers Agents

A senior writer for *Politico* still has his job after he strongly suggested on X that anyone who investigates Somali welfare, daycare, and other fraud in Minnesota might be shot if they “knock on doors.”

Senior legal affairs reporter Josh Gerstein was apparently referring to journalist Nick Shirley, who exposed so-called daycare centers that didn't have any children under their care. Shirley's probe, Gerstein wrote, might “intersect” with “stand-your-ground laws.”

But Gerstein erred twice in the post, critics observed. Minnesota is not a stand-your-ground state. And the fraud does not involve “home daycares.”

Immigration and Customs Enforcement took the imprudent X post seriously, claiming that Gerstein urged violence against federal agents who might also “knock on doors” in attempting to track down the African fraudsters.



Liudmila Chernetska/iStock/Getty Images Plus



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on January 1, 2026



Josh Gerstein ✓

@joshgerstein · [Follow](#)



At some point, the amateur effort to knock on doors of home daycares intersects with robust stand-your-ground laws



Readers added context →

Stand-your-ground laws apply only when someone reasonably believes they face an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm. If lawfully present knocking on a door alone isn't a threat. Additionally Minnesota has a duty to retreat. Not stand your ground

[revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/...](#)
[house.mn.gov/sessiondaily/S...](#)
[usconcealedcarry.com/blog/what-is-s...](#)

Context is written by people who use X, and appears when rated helpful by others. [Find out more.](#)

9:48 PM · Dec 29, 2025 

 **1.9K**
 **Reply**
 **Copy link**

[Read 14K replies](#)

Doesn't Understand Minnesota Law

Gerstein invited a hurricane of criticism when he said the state's supposed stand-your -ground law might be used against "amateur" sleuths tracking fraud, a [major problem in](#) the state that inspired pro-Somali GOP Representative Tom Emmer [to call](#) for the denaturalization and deportation of the fraudsters.

Shirley's shoe-leather journalism — knocking on doors and finding that daycare centers lacked kids for whom to care — apparently upset the leftist *Politico* scribe.



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on January 1, 2026



Nick Shirley
@nickshirleyy · [Follow](#)



Here is the full 42 minutes of my crew and I exposing Minnesota fraud, this might be my most important work yet. We uncovered over \$110,000,000 in ONE day. Like it and share it around like wildfire! Its time to hold these corrupt politicians and fraudsters accountable

We ALL [Show more](#)



12:57 PM · Dec 26, 2025



657.1K



Reply



Copy link

[Read 42.6K replies](#)

“At some point, the amateur effort to knock on doors of home daycares intersects with robust stand-your-ground laws,” Gerstein wrote on X.

But the senior legal affairs man for far-left *Politico* apparently doesn’t know anything about legal matters in the Land O’Lakes.

Minnesota is a duty-to-retreat state. A [top criminal defense law firm explains](#) that Minnesota has a Castle Doctrine but not a stand-your-ground law. The former permits using “force without retreating when defending yourself inside your own home.” The latter requires one to “retreat if it’s safe to do so before using force in public.” As well, the firm’s website explains, “the ‘duty to retreat’ applies in public places unless you’re in your home; this means you must avoid using force if safely possible.”

Former federal prosecutor Jay Town roasted Gerstein for the mistake. Gerstein, he wrote, didn’t understand stand-your-ground laws.



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on January 1, 2026

"This is the dumbest, purely idiotic take on SYG laws...perhaps ever," [he wrote on X](#):

"Knocking on doors" NEVER creates an imminent fear of harm...thus there is no justifiable need to stand your ground.

Delete your account.

But at least Gerstein has a defense. He isn't a lawyer, as his fawning *Politico* biography confesses.

"While not a lawyer, Gerstein's spent more time in courtrooms and more time reading legal pleadings than many members of the bar," the [biography claims](#) somewhat doubtfully.

Aside from his shallow understanding of stand-your-ground laws, Gerstein doesn't understand the fraud itself. Shirley did not uncover fraud at "home daycares."

"No matter how desperately some Leftist influencers are trying to frame it, these are not 'home day cares,'" X user Jammles wrote over images of state documents:

They are licensed child care centers, as clearly stated in the records.

Some accounts are now claiming the buildings were just offices and that the children were actually placed across a network of home day cares. That is not true.

Minnesota's licensing makes it clear that each license is issued to a specific, identified center location, not a floating umbrella that can be spread across multiple home providers.



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on January 1, 2026



Josh Gerstein · Dec 29, 2025

@joshgerstein · [Follow](#)

At some point, the amateur effort to knock on doors of home daycares intersects with robust stand-your-ground laws

Readers added context

Stand-your-ground laws apply only when someone reasonably believes they face an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm. If lawfully present knocking on a door alone isn't a threat. Additionally Minnesota has a duty to retreat. Not stand your ground

revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/...
house.mn.gov/sessiondaily/S...
usconcealedcarry.com/blog/what-is-s...

Context is written by people who use X, and appears when rated helpful by others. [Find out more.](#)



Jammles

@jammles9 · [Follow](#)

No matter how desperately some Leftist influencers are trying to frame it, these are not "home day cares."

They are licensed child care centers, as clearly stated in the records.

Some accounts are now claiming the buildings were just offices and that the children were actually [Show more](#)

License holder(s): Quality Learning Center Inc.
 License Holder Entity Identification Number(s): 6277046
 License status: Active
 Type of service: Child Care Center
 Initial effective date: October 17, 2017
 Last renewed or updated on: January 1, 2026
 Next renewal due: December 31, 2026

Licensed to serve

Total capacity: 99
 Restrictions: None

Licensed to provide

Service(s): Day Program
 Ages Served: Infants Toddlers Preschool School-Age

Summary of Reviews and Investigations

Summary information below appears for four years from the date of posting

Date of Visit	Type of Visit	Outcome of Visit
6/23/2025	Licensing Review	View details
3/25/2025	Licensing Investigation	View details
10/23/2024	Licensing Investigation	View details
5/14/2024	Licensing Review	View details
3/5/2024	Conditional License Review	View details
11/28/2023	Conditional License Review	View details
9/14/2023	Conditional License Review	View details
9/14/2023	Licensing Investigation	View details
5/23/2023	Licensing Review	View details
3/6/2023	Conditional License Review	View details
12/19/2022	Conditional License Review	View details

Minneapolis, MN 55407
[Map This Location \(Map will open in a new tab\)](#)

(612) 703-4094
 Hennepin County

License number: 1077606
 License holder(s): Future Leaders Early Learning Center, Incorporated
 License Holder Entity Identification Number(s): 5432596
 License status: Active
 Type of service: Child Care Center
 Initial effective date: January 23, 2016
 Last renewed or updated on: January 1, 2026
 Next renewal due: December 31, 2026

Licensed to serve

Total capacity: 90
 Restrictions: None

Licensed to provide

Service(s): Day Program
 Ages Served: Infants Toddlers Preschool School-Age

Summary of Reviews and Investigations

Summary information below appears for four years from the date of posting

Date of Visit	Type of Visit	Outcome of Visit
11/19/2025	Licensing Review	View details
5/13/2024	Licensing Review	View details

Category	Violation Description	How Corrected	Citation
Facility	Equipment and furniture were not in good repair	Corrective Documentation Submitted and Approved	Minnesota Rules, part 9203.246, Subpart 10

2:11 PM · Dec 30, 2025

116 [Reply](#) [Copy link to post](#)

[Read 3 replies](#)



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on January 1, 2026

X Users Respond

Knowing he had written something that could and would be interpreted as sanctioning violence, Gerstein attempted to weasel his way out of what he said.

“To observe that something is likely to happen or there’s a serious risk of it happening is not to advocate for it happening,” [he wrote](#).

X users weren’t having it.

“Stop calling for the murder of conservatives you terrorist lunatic,” [wrote](#) the 240K-follower Auron MacIntyre of *The Blaze*.

[Wrote](#) the 721.4K-follower Clandestine:

Left-wing MSM reporter now is in favor of the 2nd Amendment, because their massive treasonous embezzlement and money laundering scheme is being exposed...

You’re actively calling for Somalis to open fire on American citizens, at a public venue, to cover up widespread fraud...

Another user pulled up [an old post](#) from Gerstein in which he implicitly denounced police for claiming that journalists who knock on doors are “stalking.”

ICE Calls Out Gerstein

On Monday, the Department of Homeland Security announced on X that Homeland Security Investigations agents were on the ground in Minneapolis looking for fraudsters. They showed up “at daycares, healthcare facilities, and other suspected sites.”



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on January 1, 2026



Homeland Security


@DHSgov · [Follow](#)



The American people demand answers and accountability. DHS, under [@Sec_Noem](#), will deliver on them.

Our agents are conducting a massive operation to identify, arrest, and remove criminals who are defrauding the American people at daycares, healthcare facilities, and other [Show more](#)



[Watch on X](#)

12:53 PM · Dec 29, 2025 

 **13.9K**
 [Reply](#)
 [Copy link](#)

[Read 1.5K replies](#)

On Tuesday, ICE responded to Gerstein.

“You would think a ‘Senior Legal Affairs Reporter’ for POLITICO would know better than to tweet something inciting violence against federal agents,” [the agency said](#).

The far-left website will not, apparently, do anything about Gerstein’s erroneous shoot-from-the-hip X post.



Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative,
non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



Subscribe

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.