

Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 / ESSB 5774

New Background Check Requirements for Prospective Relative Caregivers, Other Suitable Persons, Foster Parents and Adoptive Parents

New federal and state laws now require fingerprints for prospective out-of-home caregivers. This is a new requirement and applies only to caregivers who will have a child placed with them after July 22.

The Children's Administration (CA) has always done background checks using CA records and WSP in-state records. Now, CA will conduct a background check consisting of four parts:

- CAMIS check
- In-state criminal history check conducted by the DSHS Background Check Central Unit (BCCU)
- National criminal history check using fingerprints on all prospective caregivers, and
- ***For anyone who has lived in another state during the past 5 years***, a request for child abuse and neglect records in that other state

Every one age 18 and older who lives in the household will need to have a background check. Youth ages 16 and 17, excluding youth in foster care, will need to have a CAMIS check and a BCCU instate criminal background check. Fingerprints are not required for minors.

After a home is licensed, youth who turn 16 will need an in state BCCU background check, and youth who turn 18 will need a fingerprint check.

If an adult living in the household refuses to get fingerprinted, CA cannot place a child in the home.

For the time being, individuals will need to get fingerprints rolled at the local police or sheriff's department. CA will provide special fingerprint cards. Everyone will need to show government issued identification at the law enforcement office to get fingerprints.

A description of fingerprint procedures is available on the CA Intranet.

A Frequently Asked Questions document is available for prospective caregivers. Contact the placing social worker if there are any questions about the procedures.