



State of New Jersey

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Comprehensive Criminal Background Checks and What it May Mean to Your Child Care

Dear Parents/Applicants:

Federal regulations (45 CFR § 98.43) require states to do comprehensive criminal background checks for child care staff members in child care centers, as well as Family Child Care and Approved Home providers and their household members. The purpose of this law is to support the health, safety and general well-being of children receiving child care services.

Starting January 2020, Family Child Care and Approved Home Providers, along with their staff and household members began getting comprehensive criminal background checks. This means all providers enrolled in the Child Care Subsidy Program have to complete and comply with this requirement to continue to receive payment for your child.

Providers that do not comply or refuse to complete a comprehensive criminal background check will immediately become ineligible to operate as a provider and therefore, will not receive further payment through the Child Care Subsidy Program.

The Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agency in your county is responsible for helping families find child care that meets their family needs. In the event your provider doesn't meet the comprehensive criminal background check requirements and is no longer eligible to provide care or participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program, your CCR&R will immediately contact you and help you find alternative child care.

As an important reminder – please make sure you have updated emergency contact information on file with your CCR&R.

For information on the federal law and the Child Care Subsidy Program, please visit www.ChildCareNJ.gov or contact your local CCR&R by calling 1-800-332-9227.

Under federal and state law, specific information about comprehensive criminal background checks are confidential and not released to CCR&R staff or the Child Care Subsidy Program.