



## Ohio Administrative Code

### Rule 173-9-01 Background checks for paid direct-care positions: introduction and definitions.

Effective: February 1, 2026

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(A) Introduction: This chapter implements sections 173.38 and 173.381 of the Revised Code.

(B) Definitions for this chapter:

(1) "AGE" means the Ohio department of aging.

(2) "Area agency on aging" has the same meaning as in section 173.14 of the Revised Code.

(3) "Applicant" means a person that a responsible party is giving final consideration for hiring into a paid direct-care position that is a full-time, part-time, or temporary position that involves providing services to consumers through an AGE-administered program, even if an employment service refers the person to the responsible party. "Applicant" includes a person that a consumer has under final consideration for hiring as a participant-directed or self-directed provider. "Applicant" does not include a volunteer.

(4) "BCII" means "the bureau of criminal identification and investigation" and includes the superintendent of BCII.

(5) "Check criminal records" means to conduct a criminal records check.

(6) "Community-based long-term care services" means community-based long-term care services that are provided under any AGE-administered program.

(7) "Consumer" means a person who receives community-based long-term care services through a program that AGE administers. "Consumer" includes an individual enrolled in the PASSPORT program or assisted living program, and a participant enrolled in PACE.

(8) "Criminal records" has the same meaning as "results of the criminal records check," "results," and



"report" in sections 173.38 and 173.381 of the Revised Code when those sections use "results of the criminal records check," "results," and "report" to refer to the criminal records that BCII provides to responsible parties that conduct criminal records checks. Criminal records originate from BCII unless the context indicates that the criminal records originate from the FBI.

(9) "Criminal records check" ("check") means the criminal records check described in section 173.38 or 173.381 of the Revised Code and Chapter 173-9 of the Administrative Code.

(10) "Database reviews" means the database reviews under rule 173-9-03 of the Administrative Code.

(11) "Direct-care position":

(a) "Direct-care position" means an employment position in which an employee has either one or both of the following:

(i) In-person contact with one or more consumers.

(ii) Access to one or more consumers' personal property or records.

(b) "Direct-care position" does not include a position whose sole duties are transporting people under Chapter 306. of the Revised Code (i.e., while working for a county transit system, regional transit authority, or regional transit commission), an attorney licensed to practice law in this state, or a person who is not licensed to practice law in this state, but at the direction of an attorney licensed to practice law in this state, assists the attorney in the attorney's provision of legal services.

(12) "Disqualifying offense" means any offense listed or described in divisions (A)(3)(a) to (A)(3)(e) of section 109.572 of the Revised Code.

(13) "Employee" means a person that a responsible party hired into a paid direct-care position that is a full-time, part-time, or temporary position that involves providing services to consumers through an AGE-administered program, even if an employment service initially referred the person to the responsible party. "Employee" includes a participant-directed provider and a self-directed provider.



"Employee" does not include a volunteer.

(14) "FBI" means "federal bureau of investigation."

(15) "Hire" has the same meaning as "employ" in section 173.38 of the Revised Code when "employ" regards hiring an applicant.

(16) "Minor drug possession offense" has the same meaning as in section 2925.01 of the Revised Code.

(17) "PACE organization" has the same meaning as in rule 173-50-01 of the Administrative Code.

(18) "PASSPORT administrative agency" (PAA) has the same meaning as in section 173.42 of the Revised Code.

(19) "Provider" means a person or government entity that provides community-based long-term care services under an AGE-administered program.

(20) "Release" has the same meaning as "terminate" in section 173.38 of the Revised Code when "terminate" regards releasing a conditionally-hired applicant.

(21) "Request criminal records" means to request a criminal records check, unless the context indicates that the request is of criminal records from the FBI.

(22) "Responsible party":

(a) When hiring an applicant for, or retaining an employee in, a paid direct-care position, "responsible party" means the area agency on aging, PASSPORT administrative agency, provider, or sub-contractor.

(b) When hiring an applicant for, or retaining an employee in, a paid direct-care position in a participant-direction or self-direction arrangement, "responsible party" means the consumer.



- (c) When considering a self-employed applicant for certification under section 173.391 of the Revised Code or a self-employed person already certified under section 173.391 of the Revised Code, "responsible party" means AGE or the PASSPORT administrative agency.
- (d) When considering a self-employed bidder for an AAA-provider agreement under section 173.392 of the Revised Code or a self-employed person already in an AAA-provider agreement under section 173.392 of the Revised Code, "responsible party" means the area agency on aging.

(23) "Retain" has the same meaning as "continue to employ" in section 173.38 of the Revised Code.

(24) "Reviewing databases" means the action involved in database reviews.

(25) "Self-employed" means the state of working for one's self with no employees. Non-agency and independent providers are self-employed. Participant-directed providers are not self-employed because the consumer is the employer of record.

(26) "Sub-contractor" means a provider that enters into a contract with a responsible party to provide a component of one or more of the other responsible party's direct-care positions. "Sub-contractor" includes a party that directly supplies services to a consumer on behalf of another responsible party. "Sub-contractor" does not include a party that indirectly supplies services to a consumer by directly providing the services to a responsible party.

(27) "Volunteer" means a person who serves in a direct-care position without receiving, or expecting to receive, any form of remuneration other than reimbursement for actual expenses.