



Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 5180:2-12-09 Background check requirements for a licensed child care center.

Effective: July 1, 2026

(A) What records are included in a background check?

- (1) Bureau of criminal investigation (BCI) records pursuant to section 5104.013 of the Revised Code.
- (2) Federal bureau of investigation (FBI) records pursuant to section 5104.013 of the Revised Code.
- (3) National sex offender registry.
- (4) State sex offender registry.
- (5) Statewide automated child welfare information system (SACWIS) records.

(B) Who shall have a background check?

- (1) An owner and administrator of a licensed child care center or applicants to be licensed as a child care center.
- (2) An employee in a licensed child care center as defined in rule 5180:2-12-01 of the Administrative Code.
- (3) A child care staff member in a licensed child care center as defined in rule 5180:2-12-01 of the Administrative Code, including substitutes and high school students and graduates under eighteen years of age working as child care staff members.

(C) Who is not required to have a background check?

Background checks are not required for volunteers and visitors. These are individuals who:

- (1) Are not counted in staff-child ratio.
- (2) Are not to be left alone with children at any time.

(D) When is a background check required?

- (1) At application for a child care center license.
- (2) Prior to the first day of employment for employees and child care staff members.
- (3) Every five years from the date of the most recent BCI records check.

(E) How is a background check obtained?



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The individual shall:

- (1) Create a profile in the Ohio professional registry (OPR).
- (2) Submit fingerprints electronically according to the process established by BCI and have the BCI and FBI results sent directly to the Ohio department of children and youth (DCY).
- (3) Complete and submit the request for a background check for child care in the OPR.

(F) What if an individual previously resided in a state other than Ohio?

- (1) DCY will contact any states in which the individual resided in the previous five years to request the information required in paragraph (A) of this rule.
- (2) Any information received from other states will be reviewed and considered by DCY as part of the background check review pursuant to paragraph (H) of this rule.

(G) What happens if an individual does not complete the full background check determination process?

- (1) If the individual completes only the requirements in paragraph (E)(2) of this rule or only the requirements in paragraph (E)(3) of this rule and does not submit the other component within forty-five days, the background check process will end and a determination of eligibility will not be made.
- (2) DCY will notify the individual and the program that the background check determination process has ended.
- (3) The individual will need to complete the requirements of paragraphs (E)(2) and (E)(3) of this rule to restart the background check determination process in the future.

(H) What makes an individual ineligible to own or be employed in a center?

- (1) A conviction or guilty plea to an offense listed in division (A)(5) of section 109.572 of the Revised Code, unless the individual meets the rehabilitation criteria in appendix A to this rule.
 - (a) Section 109.572 of the Revised Code requires that this rule applies to records of convictions that have been sealed pursuant to section 2953.32 of the Revised Code.



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- (b) A conviction of or a plea of guilty to an offense listed in division (A)(5) of section 109.572 of the Revised Code is not prohibitive if the individual has been granted an unconditional pardon for the offense pursuant to Chapter 2967. of the Revised Code or the conviction or guilty plea has been set aside pursuant to law. For purposes of this rule, "unconditional pardon" includes a conditional pardon to which all conditions have been performed or have transpired.
 - (2) Being registered or required to be registered on the national or state sex offender registry or repository.
 - (3) The individual is identified in SACWIS as the perpetrator for a substantiated finding of child abuse or neglect in the previous ten years from the date the request for background check was submitted or the individual has had a child removed from their home in the previous ten years pursuant to section 2151.353 of the Revised Code due to a court determination of abuse or neglect caused by that specific person.
- (I) What happens after the individual requests the background check in the OPR and submits fingerprints through a webcheck location?
- (1) The program and individual may receive notification of preliminary approval generated from the OPR.
 - (2) The center will receive the DCY 01176 "Program Notification of Background Check Review for Child Care" from DCY and shall keep it on file, if not available in the OPR.
 - (a) For those individuals not eligible for employment, the center shall not hire the individual or shall terminate them from employment immediately upon receipt of the DCY 01176.
 - (b) Until preliminary approval is received from DCY, an administrator, child care staff member or employee hired on or after the effective date of this rule cannot engage in any assigned duties, be near children, or otherwise have access to children.
 - (c) A child care staff member with preliminary approval but not a DCY 01176 on file at the center or in the OPR shall not be left alone with children and shall be supervised at all times by another child care staff member with a DCY 01176 on file or in the OPR.
 - (d) Only child care staff members with a DCY 01176 on file at the center or in the OPR may be left alone with children.



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- (3) The individual will receive the DCY 01177 "Individual Notification of Background Check Review for Child Care" from DCY.
- (a) If the individual believes the information received is not accurate, the individual may directly contact the agency that contributed the questioned information.
 - (b) If the individual disagrees with the employment eligibility decision made by DCY, a DCY 01178 "Request for Review of Background Check Decision for Child Care" shall be completed to request a review of the decision. The DCY 01178 shall be submitted within fourteen business days from the date on the DCY 01177.

(J) What happens after an individual submits a DCY 01178 to DCY?

If an individual requests a review of a background check decision pursuant to paragraph (I)(3)(b) of this rule:

- (1) The program shall not allow the individual to be on-site at the program during the review by DCY.
- (2) If the individual is determined to be eligible for employment, the program may allow the individual to be employed and shall keep the updated DCY 01176 on file pursuant to paragraph (I)(2) of this rule.
- (3) If the decision is upheld, the individual remains ineligible for employment.

(K) What are the background check requirements if an individual becomes employed at another licensed program?

- (1) Only the request for a background check for child care in the OPR is required if the individual meets all of the following:
 - (a) The individual has a current background check determination by DCY completed in the previous five years pursuant to this rule.
 - (b) The individual has been employed by a licensed child care center, licensed type A home, licensed type B home, approved day camp, a preschool or school-age program approved to provide publicly funded child care or certified as an in-home aide or was a resident of a licensed type A home or licensed type B home in the previous one hundred eighty consecutive days.



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- (2) Upon receipt of the request, DCY will provide the DCY 01176 based on the existing background check determination to the new employer.