



Timely background checks are critical to every child welfare, behavioral health and health care provider in West Virginia. Currently, WVDHHR processes all Criminal Identification Bureau (CIB) and FBI checks. West Virginia Child Care Providers, including child caring and child placing agencies, then receive a letter stating the department's approval or rejection of the employment applicant or foster parent.

Providers and applicants are not privy to the specific results of these background checks; despite being the responsible payee. Additionally, the provider is not informed if there is a conviction; therefore, providers are unable to evaluate if an applicant is a good match for an employment position or as a foster parent.

Accessibility to background check locations, scheduling limitations, lengthy process times, unreadable scan requirements and WVDHHR staff turnover make the current procedure cumbersome for potential new employees and foster parents, ultimately causing them to abandon the process.

RESPONSIVE BACKGROUND CHECKS

The WVCCA recommends that WVDHHR licensed child-caring and child-placing providers are eligible to receive their own ORI number in order to apply for and receive their own CIB and FBI check results.

The West Virginia Child Care Association supports the following principles:

1. Results in 72 Hours.

Results from both the state CIB and federal FBI check should be returned within 72 hours to the requesting organization.

2. Sufficient access to background check locations.

Sufficient access requires the placement of scanning equipment in every West Virginia county that is operational five (5) days a week in larger counties and three days a week in smaller counties during regular business hours from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

3. One screen for CIB and FBI checks.

Applicants should be able to have one scan completed electronically that is sufficient for both the state CIB and federal FBI checks. Multiple scans should not be necessary.

The inadequacy of the current system is costly to the state and its citizens in immeasurable ways. It causes delays in employment, staffing problems, loss of income to potential workers, delayed adoptions, and loss of mentors for children. Perhaps most importantly, the current system affects the state's ability to create sufficient services to serve its most vulnerable children.

As qualified entities, providers would register with the CIB before submitting for screening. Each such request would be voluntary and conform to the requirements established by the National Child Protection Act of 1993, as amended. As part of the registration, the qualified entity would agree to comply with the state and federal law and would so indicate by signing an agreement approved by the CIB. CIB may periodically audit qualifies entities to ensure compliance with federal law of this section.

In boarding states that have implemented this suggested process, providers receive background checks within 72 hours.

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