

299C.62 BACKGROUND CHECK.

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** The superintendent shall develop procedures to enable a children's service provider to request a background check to determine whether a children's service worker is the subject of any reported conviction for a background check crime. The superintendent shall perform the background check by retrieving and reviewing data on background check crimes. The superintendent is authorized to exchange fingerprints with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for purposes of a criminal history check. The superintendent shall recover the cost of a background check through a fee charged the children's service provider.

Subd. 2. **Background check; requirements.** (a) The superintendent may not perform a background check under this section unless the children's service provider submits a written document, signed by the children's service worker on whom the background check is to be performed, containing the following:

(1) a question asking whether the children's service worker has ever been convicted of a background check crime and if so, requiring a description of the crime and the particulars of the conviction;

(2) a notification to the children's service worker that the children's service provider will request the superintendent to perform a background check under this section; and

(3) a notification to the children's service worker of the children's service worker's rights under subdivision 3.

(b) Background checks performed under this section may only be requested by and provided to authorized representatives of a children's service provider who have a need to know the information and may be used only for the purposes of sections 299C.60 to 299C.64. Background checks may be performed pursuant to this section not later than one year after the document is submitted under this section.

Subd. 3. **Children's service worker rights.** (a) The children's service provider shall notify the children's service worker of the children's service worker's rights under paragraph (b).

(b) A children's service worker who is the subject of a background check request has the following rights:

(1) the right to be informed that a children's service provider will request a background check on the children's service worker:

(i) for purposes of the children's service worker's application to be employed by, volunteer with, be an independent contractor for, or be an owner of a children's service provider or for purposes of continuing as an employee, volunteer, independent contractor, or owner; and

(ii) to determine whether the children's service worker has been convicted of any crime specified in section 299C.61, subdivision 2 or 4;

(2) the right to be informed by the children's service provider of the superintendent's response to the background check and to obtain from the children's service provider a copy of the background check report;

(3) the right to obtain from the superintendent any record that forms the basis for the report;

(4) the right to challenge the accuracy and completeness of any information contained in the report or record pursuant to section 13.04, subdivision 4;

(5) the right to be informed by the children's service provider if the children's service worker's application to be employed with, volunteer with, be an independent contractor for, or be an owner of a children's service provider, or to continue as an employee, volunteer, independent contractor, or owner, has been denied because of the superintendent's response; and

(6) the right not to be required directly or indirectly to pay the cost of the background check.

Subd. 4. Response of bureau. The superintendent shall respond to a background check request within a reasonable time after receiving the signed, written document described in subdivision 2. The superintendent shall provide the children's service provider with a copy of the applicant's criminal record or a statement that the applicant is not the subject of a criminal history record at the bureau. It is the responsibility of the service provider to determine if the applicant qualifies as an employee, volunteer, or independent contractor under this section.

Subd. 5. No duty to check. Sections 299C.60 to 299C.64 do not create a duty to perform a background check.

Subd. 6. Admissibility of evidence. Evidence or proof that a background check of a volunteer was not requested under sections 299C.60 to 299C.64 by a children's service provider is not admissible in evidence in any litigation against a nonprofit or charitable organization.

History: 1992 c 569 s 20; 1995 c 226 art 4 s 12; 2009 c 59 art 6 s 14; 2009 c 142 art 3 s 7,8