

135C.33 Child or dependent adult abuse information and criminal records evaluations application to other providers.

1. Beginning July 1, 1997, prior to employment of a person in a facility, the facility shall request that the department of public safety perform a criminal history check and the department of human services perform a dependent adult abuse record check of the person in this state. In addition, the facility may request that the department of human services perform a child abuse record check in this state. Beginning July 1, 1997, a facility shall inform all persons prior to employment regarding the performance of the records checks and shall obtain, from the persons, a signed acknowledgment of the receipt of the information. Additionally, a facility shall include the following inquiry in an application for employment: "Do you have a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse or have you ever been convicted of a crime, in this state or any other state?" If the person has been convicted of a crime under a law of any state or has a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse, the department of human services shall, upon the facility's request, perform an evaluation to determine whether the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse warrants prohibition of employment in the facility. The evaluation shall be performed in accordance with procedures adopted for this purpose by the department of human services. If a person owns or operates more than one facility, and an employee of one of such facilities is transferred to another such facility without a lapse in employment, the facility is not required to request additional criminal and dependent adult abuse record checks of that employee.

2. If the department of public safety determines that a person has committed a crime and is to be employed in a facility licensed under this chapter, the department of public safety shall notify the licensee that an evaluation, if requested by the facility, will be conducted by the department of human services to determine whether prohibition of the person's employment is warranted. If a department of human services child or dependent adult abuse record check shows that the person has a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse, the department of human services shall inform the licensee that an evaluation, if requested by the facility, will be conducted to determine whether prohibition of the person's employment is warranted.

3. In an evaluation, the department of human services shall consider the nature and seriousness of the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse in relation to the position sought or held, the time elapsed since the commission of the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse, the circumstances under which the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse was committed, the degree of rehabilitation, the likelihood that the person will commit the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse again, and the number of crimes or founded child or dependent adult abuses committed by the person involved. The department of human services has final authority in determining whether prohibition of the person's employment is warranted.

4. *a.* Except as provided in paragraph "*b*", a person who has committed a crime or has a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse shall not be employed in a facility licensed under this chapter unless an evaluation has been performed by the department of human services. If the department of human services determines from the evaluation that the person has committed a crime or has a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse which warrants prohibition of employment, the person shall not be employed in a facility licensed under this chapter.

b. A person with a criminal or abuse record who is employed by a facility licensed under this chapter and is hired by another licensee without a lapse in employment shall be subject to the criminal history and abuse record checks required pursuant to subsection 1. If an evaluation was previously performed by the department of human services concerning the person's criminal or abuse record and it was determined that the record did not warrant prohibition of the person's employment and the latest record checks do not indicate a crime was committed or founded abuse record was entered subsequent to that evaluation, the person may commence employment with the other licensee while the department of human services' evaluation of the latest record checks is pending. Otherwise, the requirements of paragraph "*a*" remain applicable to the person's employment.

5. Beginning July 1, 1998, this section shall apply to prospective employees of all of the following, if the provider is regulated by the state or receives any state or federal funding:

a. An employee of a homemaker, home-health aide, home-care aide, adult day services, or other provider of in-home services if the employee provides direct services to consumers.

b. An employee of a hospice, if the employee provides direct services to consumers.

c. An employee who provides direct services to consumers under a federal home and community-based services waiver.

d. An employee of an elder group home certified under chapter 231B, if the employee provides direct services to consumers.

e. An employee of an assisted living program certified under chapter 231C, if the employee provides direct services to consumers.

In substantial conformance with the provisions of this section, prior to the employment of such an employee, the provider shall request the performance of the criminal and dependent adult abuse record checks and may request the performance of the child abuse record checks. The provider shall inform the prospective employee and obtain the prospective employee's signed acknowledgment. The department of human services shall perform the evaluation of any criminal record or founded child or dependent adult abuse record and shall make the determination of whether a prospective employee of a provider shall not be employed by the provider.

6. *a.* The department of inspections and appeals, in conjunction with other departments and agencies of state government involved with criminal history and abuse registry information, shall establish a single contact repository for facilities and other providers to have electronic access to data to perform background checks for purposes of employment, as required of the facilities and other providers under this section.

b. The department may access the single contact repository for any of the following purposes:

(1) To verify data transferred from the department's nurse aide registry to the repository.

(2) To conduct record checks of applicants for employment with the department.

94 Acts, ch 1130, §12; 97 Acts, ch 42, §1; 98 Acts, ch 1141, §2; 98 Acts, ch 1223, §20, 21; 99 Acts, ch 96, §11; 99 Acts, ch 114, §5; 2001 Acts, ch 8, §1; 2001 Acts, ch 20, §2, 3; 2001 Acts, ch 64, §4; 2002 Acts, ch 1050, §18; 2003 Acts, ch 166, §2; 2006 Acts, ch 1069, §1

Footnotes

Legislative intent; 98 Acts, ch 1217, §36