

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES</b> <b>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>	
	<b>Chapter 13:</b> Background Checks <b>Section 14:</b> Checks for Reunification	
	<b>Effective Date:</b> January 1, 2026	<b>Version:</b> 3

**POLICY OVERVIEW**

The Department of Child Services (DCS) may run criminal history checks on a child’s parent, guardian, custodian, or anyone living in the same home before the child returns to live with them. This helps keep children safe and well.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

DCS will consider the case details and decide whether to complete the following optional checks for the child’s parent, guardian, custodian, or anyone living in their home:

1. CPS History Check:
  - a. For anyone six (6) years or older,
  - b. In every state they have lived in during the past five (5) years.
2. National Sex Offender Registry Check:
  - a. For anyone 14 years or older,
  - b. In every state they have lived in during the past five (5) years.
3. Local Criminal Court Records Check:
  - a. For anyone 18 years or older,
  - b. In every court jurisdiction where they have lived in the past five (5) years.
4. Fingerprint-Based Check for anyone 18 years or older.

**Note:** The Interstate Identification Index (Triple I Check) must not be used on a child’s parent, guardian, custodian, or household members.

DCS will share the results with the court.

**LEGAL REFERENCES**

- [IC 31-34-21-5.5: Reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families](#)