

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 13: Background Checks Section 12: Evaluating Checks - Emergency Unlicensed Placements	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 2

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) reviews background checks for emergency unlicensed placements to help make sure children are safe and their well-being is maintained.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will check the results of all required background checks for emergency unlicensed placement.

DCS may approve a home for emergency unlicensed placement if a person's criminal or CPS history shows disqualified results only if:

1. The history can be waived; and
2. DCS supports and pursues the waiver.

Note: If a child is already placed and the waiver is not granted, the child must be removed immediately.

DCS will remove a child in an emergency unlicensed placement or ask the court to change the placement if:

1. The person has disqualified criminal history that cannot be waived;
2. The person has disqualified criminal or CPS history and DCS does not grant a waiver; or
3. A complete and valid waiver packet is not submitted to DCS within 10 business days from the completed checks (see policy [13.16](#)).

Note: If the person with disqualified history no longer lives in the home and all others pass their background checks, the child may stay in the home.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-9-2-84.8: "Nonwaivable offense"](#)
- [IC 31-34-4-2: Placement of child with relative caretaker or de facto custodian; evaluation; criminal history check required; exceptions; out-of-home placement; considerations](#)
- [IC 31-34-20-1.5: Placement in household with certain individuals prohibited; criminal history checks; exceptions; considerations](#)
- [IC 31-34-21-5.5: Reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families](#)