

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 13: Background Checks Section 06: Evaluating Checks – Nonemergency Unlicensed Placements	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 12

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) checks background records for non-emergency unlicensed placements. This helps keep children safe and well in these homes.

POLICY STATEMENT

Before placing a child in an unlicensed home, DCS reviews these background checks for all required people:

1. Fingerprint-Based National Criminal History Check
2. Child Protective Services (CPS) History Check
3. National Sex Offender Registry Check
4. Local Criminal Records Check

Note: The child should stay in their current home until all checks are cleared or needed waivers are approved. See policy 13.05 for more details.

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](#)