

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES</b> <b>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>	
	<b>Chapter 13:</b> Background Checks <b>Section 08:</b> Evaluating Checks – Adoptions	
	<b>Effective Date:</b> January 1, 2026	<b>Version:</b> 10

### POLICY OVERVIEW

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

### POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will check the results of all required Fingerprint-Based National Criminal History Checks (Fingerprint-Based Checks) for adoption. These include:

1. National Sex Offender Registry Checks;
2. Child Protective Services (CPS) History Checks; and
3. Local Criminal Records Checks.

DCS cannot support adoption if the background checks show that someone living in the home has:

1. A disqualifying criminal history; or
2. A criminal or CPS history that is not waived by DCS.

**Note:** A court may not approve an adoption if the person asking to adopt is any of the following:

- A sex or violent offender (as defined in IC 11-8-8-5);
- A sexually violent predator (as defined in IC 35-38-1-7.5); or
- A person with nonwaivable criminal history (as defined in IC 31-34-4-2 and IC 35-38-1-7.5).

### LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 11-8-8-5: "Sex or violent offender"](#)
- [IC 31-9-2-22.5: "Conduct a criminal history check"](#)
- [IC 31-9-2-84.8: "Nonwaivable offense"](#)
- [IC 31-19-8-5: Agency report and recommendation; filing requirements; waiver of report](#)
- [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 35-38-1-7.5: Sexually violent predators](#)