



Strengthen Background Checks of Adults Working with Children To Keep Kids Safe from Abuse

Kids need to be safe when in the care of professionals. Many settings where children are cared for require some kind of background check, but the screenings and requirements vary. Stronger background checks would help ensure that kids are safe with those caregivers.

Close gaps in background checks to keep kids safe:

Check the Child Abuse and Neglect Central Registry as part of the hiring process for public school employees

Currently, public school districts in Kentucky conduct state criminal background checks for all school personnel and national checks for teachers prior to initial hiring but are not required to perform Child Abuse and Neglect Registry checks. Child abuse registry checks by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services will ensure schools know if individuals are eligible to hire by ensuring they do not have substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect on the registry that were not prosecuted criminally.

Require background checks for staff and volunteers at youth camps

Currently, youth camps in Kentucky are not required to perform background checks as part of the hiring process. Adult staff or volunteers participating in the supervision of children, sometimes overnight, are not required to submit to a criminal background check, Child Abuse and Neglect Registry check, or Sex Offender Registry check.

Allow parents to check the Child Abuse and Neglect Central Registry for babysitters

Currently, only entities with statutory or regulatory authority are allowed to request a check of the Central Registry for a substantiation of child abuse or neglect. Parents of children who are seeking private child care cannot check the registry for individuals who they are employing privately to care for their child.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Strengthen background checks for personnel in public schools, youth camps, and private child care providers.

