

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Social Services Division

CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK STANDARDS

I. PURPOSE

To protect the health, safety and welfare of Adult and Community Care Services Branch (ACCSB) and Child Welfare Service Branch (CWSB) clients, criminal history information on an individual who wishes to serve as a direct service provider shall be considered in determining whether the individual is suitable to serve as a direct service provider to ACCSB/CWSB clients.

II. STATE CRIMINAL INFORMATION SYSTEM CHECK

- A. Upon implementation of these standards, a check of the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) data system for a criminal history record check shall be conducted when an individual is:
1. Conditionally offered a position as a direct service provider by an agency, purchase of service contractor, or individual employer. Pending the completion of the criminal history record check, the individual may be placed in a direct service provider position on a probationary status not to exceed thirty (30) days;
 2. In a direct service provider position when these standards become effective. The criminal history record check shall be completed within six (6) months of the effective date of these standards.
- B. The criminal history record check shall include the submission of fingerprints to the FBI and the CJIS for a State criminal history record check.
- C. Individuals shall have a criminal history record check upon initial hire or implementation of these standards and a second criminal history record check twelve months later. Thereafter, State name checks shall be conducted every other year.
- D. The responsibility for conducting a criminal history record check shall rest with the individual seeking to become a direct service provider or the individual/agency/organization hiring the individual as a direct service provider.
- E. The criminal history record checks shall be conducted through:
1. For ACCSB providers: The Department of Human Services (DHS) designee contracted to fingerprint individuals and to submit information to and receive information from the FBI and CJIS. The individual shall complete, sign and date the DHS 1645, "Authorization for Criminal

History Record Clearance”, and submit the completed form to the DHS designee;

2. For ACCSB and CWSB providers: State name checks are to be obtained from the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center (HCJDC) website: (<http://ecrim.hawaii.gov/ahewa/>). Individuals who do not have access to a computer may request information from the following:

Oahu: Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center
465 South King Street, Room 101
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Oahu office, for an additional fee, will process mailed-in requests for criminal history records checks.

Neighbor Islands: County police stations where HCJDC computer terminals are available. Molokai and Lanai are covered through the main police station on Maui.

- F. When name checks into the State name inquiry system are required for employment, a printed report of each name record check accompanied by a signed Statement of Authenticity that the criminal history record report is a true and unaltered copy shall be retained in the hired individual's personnel file and made available for review by DHS staff or its designee for compliance monitoring purposes.
- G. Fingerprint results and/or a printed name check in the State criminal history records, dated no more than six (6) months before the date an initial criminal history record check is required, may be accepted instead of a new criminal history record check being performed.
- H. DHS shall not be directly responsible for any cost related to the criminal history record check. Funds received through a Purchase of Service contract with DHS for administrative costs may be used to meet the cost for criminal history record checks.

III. CONVICTION RECORDS IN HIRING AND TERMINATING DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS

Information contained in criminal history record check reports shall be taken into consideration when hiring and terminating individuals as direct service providers. An offer of employment shall be withdrawn or the position of a direct service provider shall be terminated when a prospective or current direct service provider has a criminal history as indicated below:

- A. The criminal conviction shall have occurred within ten (10) years of the date of the criminal history record check. A criminal conviction occurring more than ten (10) years prior to the date of the criminal history record check may be considered when the criminal history of the individual may pose a risk to the health, welfare and safety of service recipients ; and
- B. The crime for which there is a conviction shall have a rational relationship to the direct service provider's position. Rational relationship means the crime for which there is a history is substantially related to the qualifications, duties and responsibilities of the direct service provider position. Crimes having rational relationships to direct service provider positions include any felony, including but not limited to theft, abuse, neglect, assault, or crimes involving violence or sexual offenses.
- C. Exemptions from the requirements of sections III. A. and B. may be approved for ACCSB providers by the DHS designee and for CWSB providers by the CWSB.
1. Requests for exemptions shall be made in writing by using form DHS 1673, "Request for Exemption (From Criminal History Records Check Standards or Protective Services Central Registry Check Standards)", or a similar form. The individual seeking the exemption must complete the DHS 1673 or similar form. A copy of the individual's current results of a name inquiry into the State criminal history records check must accompany the request. Fingerprint results for ACCSB providers should already be on file with the DHS designee.
 2. The "Checklist for Exemption Request" may be used as a reminder of the documents to be submitted for EACH exemption request. All documents shall be submitted to the DHS designee or CWSB.
 3. Unless an individual is self-employed, the employer agency must be involved in the exemption process to assure the timely submittal of all required documents and appropriateness of the exemption request. Requests for exemptions shall be routed through the prospective employer agency prior to submittal to the Department or its designee.
 4. **For ACCSB Providers:** All documents shall be submitted to the DHS designee. Upon receipt of the written exemption request and other required documents listed on the "Checklist for Exemption Request", the DHS designee shall convene a panel consisting of three (3) professional level multi-disciplinary team members to review the request. The panel shall include individuals in at least two different professions with backgrounds in criminal justice, legal and/or the therapeutic mental health field.
 5. **For CWSB Providers:** All documents shall be submitted to the CWSB Administrator. Upon receipt of the written exemption request and other required documents listed on the "Checklist for Exemption Request", the CWSB Administrator shall convene a panel to review the request. The panel may include the CWSB Administrator or designee, the CWSB Program Development Administrator, relevant CWSB Assistant Program

and Section Administrators, and anyone else deemed appropriate by the CWSB Administrator or designee.

6. The exemption panel shall consider the following:
 - a. The relevancy of the individual's conviction record to the qualifications, functions and duties of the direct service provider position the individual wishes to fill;
 - b. Passage of time since the crime was committed; and
 - c. Any evidence of rehabilitation, such as letters from counselors or therapists attesting to a sustained improvement in the individual's behavior, character references, and activities since conviction, such as employment.
 7. A single factor may not be evidence of rehabilitation. If necessary, the panel shall request additional information from the individual seeking the exemption.
 8. Individuals requesting exemptions shall be informed in writing of the panel's decision within 45 calendar days from the date the panel receives all documents needed for a decision to be made. The panel may extend the 45-day period with cause and a written explanation to the individual seeking the exemption.
 9. Individuals who are dissatisfied with the panel decisions on their exemption requests may:
 - a. Request an informal discussion with the ACCSB/CWSB Administrator; and/or
 - b. Appeal the panel's decision to the Social Service Division Administrator.
- D. ACCSB clients may choose not to conduct criminal history record checks on individuals they hire on their own. Clients who choose not to have criminal history record checks shall complete form DHS 1672, "Consumer-Employer Choice Regarding Criminal History Record Check and Adult Protective Services (APS) Central Registry Check", to acknowledge their understanding of these standards and the purpose for the checks, and their decision not to conduct criminal history record checks or APS Central Registry checks on individuals they plan to hire as direct service providers.

Attachments

DHS 1645 with instructions

DHS 1672 with instructions

DHS 1673 with instructions

Statement of Authenticity

Checklist for Exemption Request