

# Enhanced background studies resume for child care providers

September 10, 2021

The Department of Human Services is returning to fingerprint-based background studies for child care providers. All child care providers will return to submitting fully compliant studies that meet state and federal requirements on Sept. 15.

Beginning Sept. 15, child care providers will no longer be able to submit new emergency studies. On Sept. 15, providers can begin submitting enhanced (fingerprint-based) background studies for new hires, newly affiliated individuals and individuals who had not been able to complete the enhanced studies during the statewide rollout in late 2019 and early 2020, which was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic and peacetime emergency.

## What the changes mean for child care providers

- DHS will cover the one-time cost of enhanced child care background studies. On Sept. 15, 2021 all child care background study fees will be set to \$0. DHS will also be facilitating payment for child care background study fingerprinting fees with the new statewide fingerprint vendor, IDEMIA. Child care background study fees will continue to be paid by DHS until further notice.
- Emergency background studies for new study subjects will end for child care providers on Sept. 15, and providers must submit enhanced background studies for new hires and newly affiliated individuals.
- Fingerprinting and photographs will again be required for most child care background studies.
- Study subjects will be required to disclose criminal history information and complete an informed consent form.
- DHS will continue to process emergency background study applications that have been submitted and received through the NETStudy 2.0 system on or before Sept. 14. Emergency studies that are in process or have been completed will remain valid until July 2, 2022.
- Individuals who have received emergency studies are required to have a fully compliant study to continue to work on or after July 2, 2022.
- Beginning Dec. 1, providers may submit enhanced background studies for those who completed an emergency study. Providers that have submitted

and paid for emergency studies from April 6, 2020 to Sept. 14, will receive a \$20 credit per study submitted. More information will be provided at a later date about the resubmission of emergency studies and the provider credit.

### **Background study requirements for child care providers**

- Study subjects cannot provide direct contact services to people served by the program until a notice is received of a completed background study which indicates the individual is eligible to work; or a notice is received indicating that more time is needed, but the person can work with supervision.
- In the event of a disqualification of a current staff member, regulated providers will be required to remove the individual (regardless of their role) from employment.

In addition to returning to fingerprint-based studies, DHS will be using a [new fingerprint and photo vendor](#).

The most up-to-date information about the emergency studies and the transition to fully compliant studies is available at [transition from emergency studies to full compliance](#).

### **What this means for family child care and legal non-licensed providers working to resume enhanced child care studies**

DHS' emergency studies temporarily suspended or modified many of the background study requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic and peacetime emergency under the Governor's Executive Order 20-12 and the authority granted to the Human Services Commissioner to assist providers to quickly respond to changing workforce needs. As the transition to fully compliant background studies resumes, DHS and county licensing agencies will continue to assist child care providers in completing enhanced background studies.

Family child care and legal non-licensed providers should contact their county for help submitting enhanced studies for their newly affiliated staff and household members. Counties should reach out to providers to prompt them to submit an enhanced study for individuals who were not able to complete the statewide rollout of enhanced studies in late 2019 and early 2020.

Thank you for your commitment to serving Minnesotans during these unprecedented times and your assistance as we return to providing the fully compliant background checks required to keep those receiving health and human services safe.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:**

<https://mn.gov/dhs/general-public/background-studies/faqs/idemia-transition/>

<https://mn.gov/dhs/general-public/background-studies/faqs/transition-to-full-compliance/>