



Greetings from Child Care Licensing!

We are excited to collaborate with Child Care Aware® of NH to bring news from the Child Care Licensing Unit to the child care community on a regular basis through their e-newsletter, Monthly Minutes. Every month, we will strive to bring you information to increase your understanding of the NH Child Care Licensing rules, and to share other resources to assist you in your work with and on behalf of children and their families.

We will also use this space to share any important announcements as they relate to Child Care Licensing Unit (CCLU).

Background Checks Update

EXCITING NEWS! CCLU was fortunate to have an intern who created a video on how to complete the background check process. It is now on our website and I highly recommend you view it, and have staff completing the process view it as well: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oos/cclu/fingerprinting.htm>

In addition, the next phase of our criminal background check process will be to incorporate a CRIMINAL registry check in each state an individual resided in the previous 5 years. We currently complete an abuse and neglect check in those states. On August 2nd, the Governor signed into law a change to the state statute to include the out-of-state criminal check to comply with federal requirements, details here: http://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billText.aspx?sy=2019&id=985&txtFormat=pdf&v=current.

In addition, to be fully compliant with federal requirements, by January 1, 2020 we need to include in the Child Care Licensing rules that staff may not begin **working** in child care until at least their state and FBI fingerprint checks have cleared. If the individual also needs background checks in other states, then they can work under the supervision of someone whose checks have cleared until all their checks have been completed. We are reviewing our processes for notifying programs when staff are cleared in anticipation of these changes, as we understand the critical need to have staff working as soon as possible. I will be providing draft rule language soon for feedback, stay tuned!

Until next month!

Melissa Clement

Chief, Child Care Licensing Unit