

HB 1453: Emergency Placements

210.482 RSMo

HB 1453 impacts policy regarding emergency placements related to agency arranged kinship.

Current Policy:

- Requires staff to obtain a child abuse/neglect and criminal record report for all household members over the age of 18. The CA/N report may be obtained by accessing local county office computers or by calling the Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline. The initial criminal report may be requested of the local law enforcement officials.
- After the initial name-based search, policy requires staff to submit the SHP-159 to the Missouri Highway Patrol for a more thorough criminal history report and obtain a child abuse/neglect report on each household member over the age of 18, documenting results to the following screens: SCLR, KDCN, IPAR, FPAR, ANUM, ANME, and AINC. Access MAPC for Child Support Enforcement data that was previously on DPAR.

New Policy:

- Require in emergency kinship placements, that all adult household members over the age of 17, or those under the age of 17 who have ever been certified as an adult and been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to any crime are to obtain a child abuse/neglect and criminal record report
- Require staff to request that a local or state law enforcement agency or juvenile officer immediately conduct a name-based criminal history record check to include full orders of protection and outstanding warrants of each person over the age of 17 residing in the home by using the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System (MULES) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) to access records maintained by the FBI
- Require staff to complete a CA/N background check accessing local county office computers or by calling the Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline.
- Require staff to submit two sets of fingerprints to the Highway Patrol to be used to search the criminal history after the name-based search has been conducted and the child has been placed with the kinship family.
- Provide specific guidelines for staff to complete the fingerprinting process, Case.net search, CA/N checks and the Family Care Safety Registry.
 - Any child placed in a kinship home shall be removed immediately if any person residing in the home fails to provide fingerprints after being requested to do so.

- Persons within the second degree of consanguinity (parents, siblings, and grandparents only) are not required to be fingerprinted to be licensed as a relative foster home.

Expected Outcomes:

The addition of policy and statute related to criminal background screenings will enhance the agency's ability to protect children from further harm by assuring the safe environment and criminal history of their placement resource. The kinship program already provides a partnership with families and communities by maintaining children in a safe environment, and the least restrictive placement while they are away from their parents.