

# Background Checks FAQ's

**Question:** What is the date that providers will be expected to comply with the federal requirements and when will it be enforced?

**Answer:** Jan. 1, 2024.

**Question:** Can my employee start immediately, and work supervised until their background check clears?

**Answer:** Effective Jan. 1, 2024, fingerprints must be completed and cleared prior to the date of hire.

**Question:** How do I prevent DCYF background unit emails from going to my spam or junk folder?

**Answer:** Since the recipients are external, we don't have any control of emails once they leave our server. Whatever service provider the recipient is using for their email is controlling what is considered junk and what isn't. The users should be able to add the email address that these messages are coming from to their address book beforehand, which should allow them through.

**Question:** How often do I need to get my fingerprints and background done?

**Answer:** Fingerprints and background checks are now valid for five years.

**Question:** What do fingerprints and a background submission cost?

**Answer:** They are free.

**Question:** Do I have to be cleared of both fingerprints and background submission to work or volunteer in licensed childcare?

**Answer:** As of Jan. 1, 2024, yes. You must have a cleared fingerprint and background check.



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

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Licensing Division | Approved for distribution by Travis Hansen, Senior Administrator for Child Care