



March 11, 2021

Provider
Address Line 1
Address Line 2
City/State/Zip

RE: Child Care Provider Criminal History Record Checks

Dear Child Care Provider,

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) values child care providers in Nebraska. We recognize your commitment to ensuring safety and well-being in your child care center during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am pleased to share two updates which DHHS hopes will make your commitment as a child care provider easier during these uncertain times.

First, starting March 11, 2021, **DHHS will pay the full cost of the Nebraska State Patrol fingerprinting and processing fee (\$45.25) for NEW and EXISTING child care providers, staff, volunteer, household members in licensed child care programs, and for license-exempt providers and household members in licensed exempt programs until September 30, 2021.** DHHS is not able to reimburse for any past fingerprint expenses. Providers, staff, volunteers, and household members will resume paying the full cost effective October 1, 2021.

Secondly, as a result of a federal waiver, starting March 11, 2021, **child care providers, staff, volunteers, and household members who have submitted fingerprints for a criminal history check to the Nebraska State Patrol AND the application for fingerprinting to DHHS Children's Service Licensing, may start supervised employment in licensed family child care home II and child care center settings before having the employment eligibility letter.** These individuals will not be left alone with children while their eligibility determination results are pending in licensed child care programs only. If DHHS pre-screening efforts determine a child care provider, staff, volunteer, and household member ineligible prior to receiving the fingerprint criminal background check, notification will be made to the child care program immediately.

Please review our website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Child-Care-Licensing.aspx> for up-to-date background check information and resources, including forms and public LiveScan fingerprinting sites. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Public Health, Licensure Unit at 1-800-600-1289 or by email at DHHS.ChildCareLicensing@nebraska.gov.

The Department thanks you for your commitment to provide quality child care for Nebraska's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dannette R. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Dannette R. Smith, MSW
Chief Executive Officer
Department of Health and Human Services