

Parent Provider Background Check

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are all parent providers required to have background checks as of February 1, 2020?

A: Parent providers are long-term care workers and must have background checks per [RCW 74.39A.056](#).

Q: Can parent providers be exempted, or “grandfathered-in” from background checks?

A: No. No law is in effect that authorizes an exemption. All individual providers (IPs) must have a current non-disqualifying background check per [RCW 74.39A.056](#).

Q: What type of background checks are current parent providers required to have by December 31, 2020?

A: All providers must have a Washington State name and date-of-birth background check. Some providers will be required to have a federal fingerprint check.

Q: Will parent providers be required to have a fingerprint check?

A: Parent providers who have been continuously contracted with ALTSA or DDA prior to January 7, 2012 and have lived outside of the state at any time during the last three years must have both a Washington State name and date-of-birth background check *and* a federal fingerprint check.

Parent providers who first became contracted on or after January 7, 2012 must have both a name and date-of-birth background check, *and* a federal fingerprint check.

Parent providers who have been continuously contracted since before January 7, 2012 and have not lived outside of Washington State in the last three years do not need a federal fingerprint check.

Q: What if I am disqualified by the background check?

A: State law requires that your contract be terminated and you will not be qualified to contract with DSHS as an individual provider.

Q: What are the crimes that disqualify a long-term care worker from working unsupervised with DDA clients?

A: The disqualifying crimes can be found in [Chapter 388-113 WAC](#).

Q: Are there exceptions to the disqualifying crimes?

A: Yes. Some exceptions exist under [WAC 388-113-0040](#).

Q: Where do I find the negative actions that are disqualifying?

A: Disqualifying negative actions for individual providers can be found under [WAC 388-113-0030](#) and [WAC 388-825-640](#) .

Q: What action can I take if there is a disqualifying crime on my background check?

A: DDA cannot provide legal advice, but has compiled several resources that may help address stakeholder concerns regarding disqualifying criminal history. If you have specific questions or legal concerns, consult an attorney. The resources to help address concerns follow:

- The [Washington State Courts](#) and the advocacy group [Civil Survival](#). House Bill 1041 or the “New Hope Act,” was passed by the Washington State Legislature in 2019. It promotes successful re-entry by modifying the process for obtaining certificates of discharge and vacating conviction records.
- The Washington Association of Children and Families has advocacy information regarding proposed legislation for [Certificates of Parental Improvement](#).

Q: If I have had a background check already, will I be required to have another one?

A: All long-term care workers are required to have a renewal background check every two years.

Q: How will I know when my background check is due?

A: You will be notified by DDA contracts staff member:

- If you do not currently have a background check on file;
- At your contract renewal; and
- Every two years (mid-cycle).