# DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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# State of Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers

**TO:** Income Maintenance Supervisors

**Income Maintenance Lead Workers** 

**Income Maintenance Staff** 

**Training Staff** 

**Child Care Coordinators** 

FROM: Mark Andrews, Director

Bureau of Early Care Regulation Division of Early Care and Education Department of Children and Families **DECE/BECR OPERATIONS MEMO** 

No: 19-23

**DATE: 6/10/2019** 

**Child Care** 

**SUBJECT: Background Check Requirements** 

CROSS REFERENCE: Operations Memo 18-41

Wis. Stats. §48.686

EFFECTIVE DATE: JUNE 7, 2019

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this memo is to notify certification workers of background check requirements that will impact certified child care operators, household members, child care providers/caregivers and noncaregiver employees, residing or working in certified child care programs prior to 10/1/18. This memo also outlines new background check policy and procedure changes for certification workers.

**BACKGROUND:** Wis. Stats. §48.686 was enacted on September 21, 2017 and went into effect October 1, 2018. Effective October 1, 2018 the department began conducting background checks on all new applicants for certification, new household members and other new individuals subject to background check requirements, in accordance with Wis. Stats. §48.686. Operations Memo 18-41 and BECR Provider Memos 2019-02 and 2018-21 state that DCF would begin conducting background checks on existing certified operators and existing individuals associated with a certified child care program starting in the summer of 2019.

DCF has mailed 60 and 30 day background check notices to existing certified operators informing the operator when they are required to comply with the new background check requirements. If a certified operator does not comply with the new requirements by the date in the background check notice, the operator is subject to an enforcement action to be taken by the certification agency. The background check notices are

OM 19-23 Page 2 of 8

viewable to certification workers in WISCCRS under Batch Documents and viewable to operators in the Child Care Provider Portal (CCPP).

# **POLICY AND AUTOMATION:**

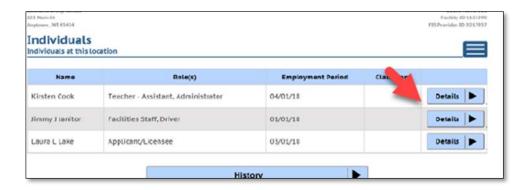
Certified operators are now required to submit Background Check Requests (BCR) for each individual age 10 and older who has not yet undergone a DCF-conducted background check. The BCR is due on or before the date indicated in the operator's background check notice. The operator may submit BCRs using either of the options listed below:

Option 1 (preferred): Submittal of BCRs using the Child Care Provider Portal (CCPP)

Operators may log on to the CCPP to update Individual Details, Employment Residency Details and complete and submit the BCR for each individual age 10+ associated with their child care program. When the Individual Details page is updated and the BCR submitted, WISCCRS will automatically generate and mail to the operator a fingerprint instruction letter on the date indicated in the operator's background check notice for anyone age 18 or older. Once the instruction letter is generated/mailed, the letter will then be viewable to the operator in the CCPP.

# **CCPP Individual Details:**



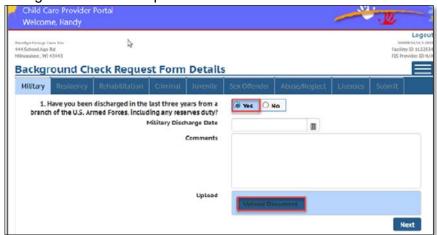


OM 19-23 Page 3 of 8



If the operator does not complete all required fields the system will not generate a fingerprint instruction letter.

# Background Check Request Form:



The operator must answer every question and click submit or the system will not generate a fingerprint instruction letter.

When the operator updates the Individual Details, Employment/ Residency Details and BCR using the CCPP, the information is also viewable to the certification worker in WISCCRS.

Option 2: Submittal of paper BCR forms to the certification agency.

If the operator submits paper BCR forms to the certification agency, the certification worker must do the following:

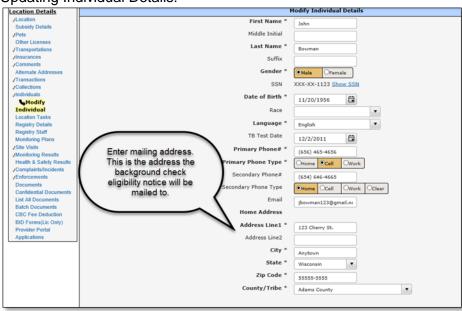
- 1. Update the Individual Details and Employment/Residency Details page in WISCCRS, including the individual's spoken language, mailing address, etc. and click the "save" button at bottom of the screen. Access the Individual Details page by clicking on the pencil icon for each individual, then enter information in the required fields.
- 2. Enter the BCR for each individual using the Request Form link in the Individual Module.

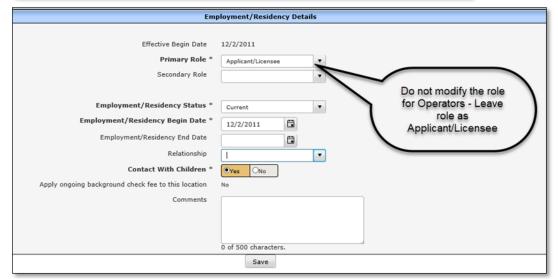
OM 19-23 Page 4 of 8

#### Individuals Module:



**Updating Individual Details:** 

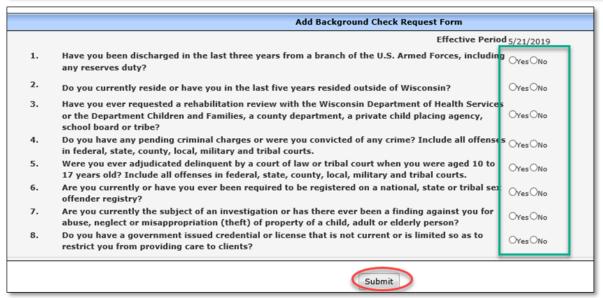




OM 19-23 Page 5 of 8

# Entering the BCR:





Once the certification worker updates the Individual Details page (completing all required fields) and the BCR is completed (using the Request Form link) WISCCRS will generate and mail a fingerprint instruction letter on the date indicated in the operator's background check notice. Once the instruction letter is generated/mailed, the fingerprint instruction letter will then be viewable to the certification worker under the Batch Documents link in WISCCRS.

Fingerprint instruction letters will include the names of all individuals age 18+ who have not yet undergone a DCF-conducted fingerprint-based background check. Each name will be assigned both a Fieldprint code and a unique reference code that each individual will need to use when scheduling their Fieldprint appointment online. If a fingerprint instruction letter is not generated and viewable under Batch Documents, or in the CCPP, by the date referenced in the operator's background check notice, it is likely due to one or more of the following:

- 1. The Individual Details were updated but the BCR was not entered or only partially completed.
- 2. The BCR was entered/submitted but the Individual Details were not updated.
- 3. The Individual Details and the BCR were not entered.
- 4. An Employment/Residency End Date was mistakenly entered for an individual.
- The BCR was entered but the Individual Details is missing the individual's mailing address.

#### TIMELINE:

After June 1, 2019, but prior to July 10, 2019, certification workers should check the Batch Documents in WISCCRS to verify that 60 and 30 day background check notices and fingerprint instruction letters were mailed to their certified operators. If a certified operator has not yet undergone a DCF-conducted background check and there is not a background check notice in Batch Documents please notify Jolene.lbeling@wisconsin.gov, including the provider number(s). If the background check notice was mailed but the operator has not yet submitted a

OM 19-23 Page 6 of 8

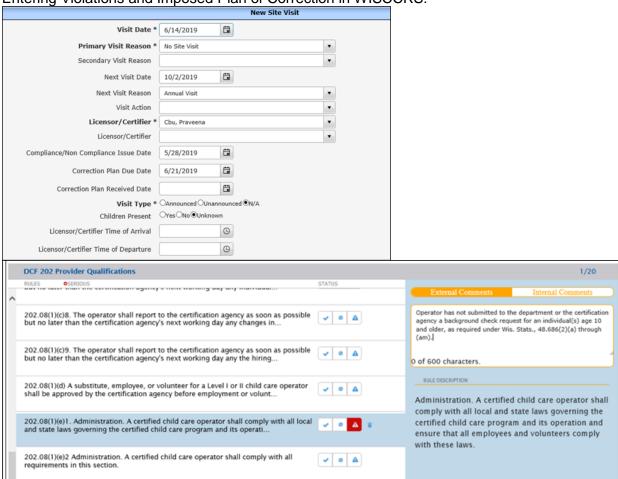
BCR for an individual age 10+, the certification worker shall issue a Non-compliance Statement and Imposed Plan of Correction using the following citation and description:

Citation: DCF 202.08(1)(e)1. Comply with all local and state laws governing the certified child care program and its operation and ensure that all employees and volunteers comply with these laws.

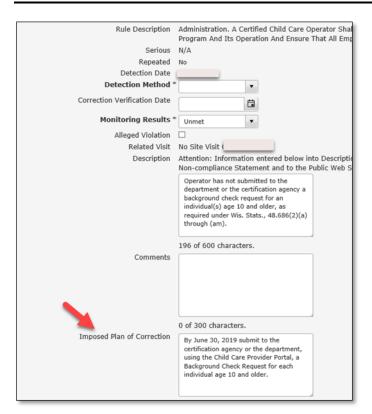
Description: Operator has not submitted to the department or the certification agency a background check request for any individual(s) age 10 and older, as required under Wis. Stats., 48.686(2)(a) through (am).

Imposed Plan of Correction: By June 30, 2019 submit to the certification agency or the department, using the Child Care Provider Portal, a Background Check Request for each individual age 10 and older.

Entering Violations and Imposed Plan of Correction in WISCCRS:



OM 19-23 Page 7 of 8



After July 1, 2019 the department will send a reminder letter to any operator who has been issued a fingerprint instruction letter but has not yet complied with completing the fingerprint-based background check requirements.

If after 15 days from the reminder letter an operator has not yet complied with the fingerprint-based background check requirements, the certification agency will be notified by the department. The certification agency shall issue a Non-compliance Statement with an Imposed Plan of Correction using the following citation and description:

Citation: DCF 202.08(1)(e)1. Comply with all local and state laws governing the certified child care program and its operation and ensure that all employees and volunteers comply with these laws.

Description: Operator has not ensured all individual(s) age 18 or older have completed a fingerprint-based background check, as required under Wis. Stats., 48.686(2)(ag).

Imposed Plan of Correction: By (DATE) complete a fingerprint-based background check for each individual age 18+ associated with the child care program.

If after 15 days from the date of the Non-compliance Statement an operator has not yet complied with the fingerprint-based background check requirements, the certification agency will be notified by the department. The certification agency shall issue a Warning letter notifying the operator that an enforcement action, ranging from suspension to revocation, will be issued for noncompliance.

If after 15 days from the date of the Warning letter an operator has not yet complied with the fingerprint-based background check requirements, the certification may be suspended or revoked.

OM 19-23 Page 8 of 8

If an operator's certification expires during the enforcement timeline listed above (warning letter to revocation), it is appropriate for the renewal application to be denied.

In accordance with DCF 202.06(4), if a certification agency suspends or revokes or refuses to renew certification, the agency shall notify the child care applicant / operator in writing. This action is reviewable pursuant to ch. 68, Stats., which provides for an administrative review of the decisions of local agencies. Requirements for appeals to the department (Milwaukee Certification) are outlined ch. 227.

# SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS:

At the end of June, the department's Child Care Background Check Unit (CBU) will no longer be uploading the Guide to Relevancy form as a PDF under Individual Documents in WISCCRS. There will be a new WISCCRS screen called the Background Check Analysis Summary (BCAS). Certification workers will be able to view the BCAS screen to view the details of the CBU's analysis for background checks conducted after June.

WISCCRS Individuals User Guide: <a href="https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/publications/pdf/5292.pdf">https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/publications/pdf/5292.pdf</a>
Background Check Request Form: <a href="https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/forms/doc/5296.docx">https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/forms/doc/5296.docx</a>
Child Care Provider Portal Information: <a href="https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/provider-portal/info">https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/provider-portal/info</a>

#### **CONTACTS:**

For Child Care Certification policy questions outside of Milwaukee County, contact your Bureau of Regional Operations (BRO), Child Care Coordinators at <a href="mailto:BROCCPolicyHelpDesk@wisconsin.gov">BROCCPolicyHelpDesk@wisconsin.gov</a>.

DCF/DECE/BECR/JRI