

## DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 439 789

PS 028 373

AUTHOR Fagnoni, Cynthia  
TITLE Child Care: State Requirements for Background Checks.  
INSTITUTION General Accounting Office, Washington, DC. Health,  
Education, and Human Services Div.  
REPORT NO GAO/HEHS-00-66R  
PUB DATE 2000-02-28  
NOTE 31p.; For earlier child care safety report, see ED 438 061.  
AVAILABLE FROM U.S. General Accounting Office, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg,  
MD 20884-6015 (First copy, free, Additional copies, \$2  
each). Tel: 202-512-6000; Fax: 301-258-4066; e-mail:  
info@www.gao.gov. For full text:  
<http://www.gao.gov/newitems/he0066r.pdf>.  
PUB TYPE Legal/Legislative/Regulatory Materials (090) --  
Numerical/Quantitative Data (110)  
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.  
DESCRIPTORS Child Abuse; \*Child Caregivers; \*Criminals; \*Day Care; Day  
Care Centers; Early Childhood Education; Family Day Care;  
State Action; \*State Regulation; State Standards; State  
Surveys  
IDENTIFIERS \*Background Checks (Employment)

## ABSTRACT

Background checks involve gathering information from state and federal databases to determine if child care providers have a history of child abuse or other criminal convictions that would make them unacceptable for working with children. Background checks include state criminal history checks, state child abuse registry checks, and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) checks. In response to a Congressional request, the Government Accounting Office provided information for each state about the background checks required for its regulated child care providers. The information expands on aggregate data presented on background check requirements in a previous report examining state activities to enforce child care requirements. The data used were collected by a survey sent to child care licensing directors in 50 states and the District of Columbia in May 1999. The correspondence indicates that all but four states require at least one type of check be conducted on their regulated providers, while many states require more than one be conducted. Also shown are which types of background checks are required by each state for regulated family child care homes, group homes, and child care centers. (EV)



**G A O**

Accountability \* Integrity \* Reliability

United States General Accounting Office  
Washington, DC 20548

Health, Education, and  
Human Services Division

B-284725

February 28, 2000

The Honorable Pete Stark  
The Honorable George Miller  
The Honorable Sander M. Levin  
House of Representatives

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Office of Educational Research and Improvement  
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION  
CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

Subject: Child Care: State Requirements for Background Checks

This letter responds to your request that we provide information for each state about the background checks it requires to be conducted on its regulated child care providers. This information expands upon the aggregate data presented on background check requirements in our recent report, which examined state activities to enforce child care requirements.<sup>1</sup>

Background checks involve gathering information from state and federal databases to determine if providers have a history of child abuse or other criminal convictions that would make them unacceptable for working with children. As we reported, experts and the literature both identified conducting background checks as one of several critical licensing activities that help states ensure the safety and health of children in child care settings. Background checks on providers include state criminal history checks, state child abuse registry checks, and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) checks. All but four states require that at least one type of check be conducted on their regulated providers, while many states require that more than one be conducted. The enclosure to this letter shows which types of background checks are required by each state for regulated family child care homes, group homes,<sup>2</sup> and child care centers.

The data used in our report and in this correspondence were collected through a survey sent to child care licensing directors in 50 states and the District of Columbia in May 1999; all surveys but one were returned. The survey asked about the extent to which licensing offices conducted critical enforcement activities, including background checks, during fiscal year 1999. We conducted our work for this correspondence between January and February 2000 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

<sup>1</sup>Child Care: State Efforts to Enforce Safety and Health Requirements (GAO/HEHS-00-28, Jan. 24, 2000).

<sup>2</sup>Typically, family child care consists of one provider caring for six or fewer children in the provider's home. Group home care usually involves two providers caring for 7 to 12 children in a provider's home.

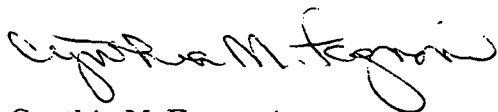
028373

35

B-284725

We are sending copies of this correspondence to the Honorable Olivia Golden, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services; appropriate congressional committees; and other interested parties. We will also make copies available to others upon request.

If you or your staff have any questions about this correspondence, please contact me or Karen Whiten on (202) 512-7215. Janet L. Mascia made key contributions to this correspondence.



Cynthia M. Fagnoni  
Director, Education, Workforce  
and Income Security Issues

Enclosure

BACKGROUND CHECKS REQUIRED BY STATES FOR REGULATED OUT-OF-HOME  
CHILD CARE PROVIDERS, 1999

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Alabama<sup>a</sup></b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff			
Center director			
Other nonteaching staff			
<b>Alaska<sup>b</sup></b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff			
Center director			
Other nonteaching staff			

Note: A check mark indicates that a background check is required by the state, while a blank indicates that a background check is not required.

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Arizona</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓		✓
Provider's assistant	✓		✓
Provider's spouse	✓		✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓		✓
Provider's assistant	✓		✓
Provider's spouse	✓		✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		✓
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		✓
Center director	✓		✓
Other nonteaching staff			
<b>Arkansas</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>California</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	✓
Center director	✓	✓	✓
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	✓
<b>Colorado</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Connecticut</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓		
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		
Center director	✓		
Other nonteaching staff	✓		
<b>Delaware</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	✓
Center director	✓	✓	✓
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	✓

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>District of Columbia*</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Group home<sup>c</sup></b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff			
Center director			
Other nonteaching staff			
<b>Florida</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Group home<sup>c</sup></b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	✓
Center director	✓	✓	✓
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	✓



	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Georgia</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓		✓
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓		
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓		✓
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓		
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		
Center director	✓		✓
Other nonteaching staff	✓		
<b>Hawaii</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	✓
Center director	✓	✓	✓
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	✓

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Idaho</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	✓
Center director	✓	✓	✓
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	✓
<b>Illinois</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	✓
Center director	✓	✓	✓
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	✓

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Indiana</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	
<b>Iowa</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children	✓	✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children	✓	✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Kansas</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children	✓	✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children	✓	✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	
<b>Kentucky</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓		
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓		
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		
Center director	✓		
Other nonteaching staff	✓		

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Louisiana</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		
Center director	✓		
Other nonteaching staff	✓		
<b>Maine</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home<sup>d</sup></b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff	✓		

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Maryland</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Group home<sup>c</sup></b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		✓
Center director	✓	✓	✓
Other nonteaching staff	✓		✓
<b>Massachusetts</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓		
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓		
Provider's minor children	✓		
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓		
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓		
Provider's minor children	✓		
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		
Center director	✓		
Other nonteaching staff	✓		

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Michigan</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff			
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff			
<b>Minnesota</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓		
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓		
Provider's minor children	✓		
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓		
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓		
Provider's minor children	✓		
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		
Center director	✓		
Other nonteaching staff	✓		

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Mississippi</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children	✓	✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children	✓	✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	
<b>Missouri</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	



	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Montana</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	
<b>Nebraska</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider		✓	
Provider's assistant		✓	
Provider's spouse		✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home		✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider		✓	
Provider's assistant		✓	
Provider's spouse		✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home		✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff		✓	
Center director		✓	
Other nonteaching staff		✓	

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Nevada</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	✓
Center director	✓	✓	✓
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	✓
<b>New Hampshire</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children	✓	✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children	✓	✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>New Jersey</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider		✓	
Provider's assistant		✓	
Provider's spouse		✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home		✓	
<b>Group home<sup>d</sup></b>			
Provider		✓	
Provider's assistant		✓	
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff		✓	
Center director		✓	
Other nonteaching staff		✓	
<b>New Mexico</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓		✓
Provider's assistant	✓		✓
Provider's spouse	✓		✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		✓
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		✓
Center director	✓		✓
Other nonteaching staff	✓		✓

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>New York</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider		✓	
Provider's assistant		✓	
Provider's spouse		✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home		✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider		✓	
Provider's assistant		✓	
Provider's spouse		✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the Provider's home		✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff		✓	
Center director		✓	
Other nonteaching staff		✓	
<b>North Carolina</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓		
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓		
Provider's minor children	✓		
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Group home<sup>c</sup></b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		
Center director	✓		
Other nonteaching staff	✓		

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>North Dakota</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider		✓	
Provider's assistant		✓	
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider		✓	
Provider's assistant		✓	
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff		✓	
Center director		✓	
Other nonteaching staff			
<b>Ohio</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓		
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓		
Provider's minor children	✓		
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓		✓
Provider's assistant	✓		✓
Provider's spouse	✓		✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		✓
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		✓
Center director	✓		✓
Other nonteaching staff	✓		✓

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Oklahoma</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		
Center director	✓		
Other nonteaching staff	✓		
<b>Oregon</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	✓
Center director	✓	✓	✓
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	✓

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Pennsylvania</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff			
<b>Rhode Island</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff		✓	✓
Center director		✓	✓
Other nonteaching staff			

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>South Carolina</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children	✓	✓	✓
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	✓
Center director	✓	✓	✓
Other nonteaching staff			
<b>South Dakota</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider		✓	
Provider's assistant		✓	
Provider's spouse		✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home		✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider		✓	
Provider's assistant		✓	
Provider's spouse		✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home		✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff		✓	
Center director		✓	
Other nonteaching staff		✓	



	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Tennessee*</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff			
Center director			
Other nonteaching staff			
<b>Texas</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children	✓	✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children	✓	✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Utah</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	✓
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	✓
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	✓
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	✓
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	✓
Center director	✓	✓	✓
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	✓
<b>Vermont</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant		✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children		✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Virginia</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children	✓	✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓	✓	
<b>Group home<sup>c</sup></b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓	✓	
Center director	✓	✓	
Other nonteaching staff	✓	✓	
<b>Washington</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓	✓	
Provider's assistant	✓	✓	
Provider's spouse	✓	✓	
Provider's minor children	✓	✓	
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		
Center director	✓		
Other nonteaching staff	✓		

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>West Virginia</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓		
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓		
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider	✓		
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓		
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		
Center director	✓		
Other nonteaching staff	✓		
<b>Wisconsin</b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider	✓		
Provider's assistant	✓		
Provider's spouse	✓		
Provider's minor children	✓		
Other adults living in the provider's home	✓		
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff	✓		
Center director	✓		
Other nonteaching staff	✓		

	State criminal history	State child abuse registry	FBI
<b>Wyoming<sup>a</sup></b>			
<b>Family child care</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the provider's home			
<b>Group home</b>			
Provider			
Provider's assistant			
Provider's spouse			
Provider's minor children			
Other adults living in the Provider's home			
<b>Center</b>			
Teaching staff			
Center director			
Other nonteaching staff			

<sup>a</sup>This state does not require background checks.

<sup>b</sup>This state did not respond to the survey.

<sup>c</sup>This state does not have group home providers.

<sup>d</sup>This state provided data for the group home provider category but referred to these providers as small child care centers.

Source: Analysis of data collected for our report Child Care: State Efforts to Enforce Safety and Health Requirements (GAO/HEHS-00-28, Jan. 24, 2000).

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

---

---

### Ordering Information

The first copy of each GAO report and testimony is free. Additional copies are \$2 each. Orders should be sent to the following address, accompanied by a check or money order made out to the Superintendent of Documents, when necessary. VISA and MasterCard credit cards are accepted, also. Orders for 100 or more copies to be mailed to a single address are discounted 25 percent.

**Orders by mail:**

**U.S. General Accounting Office  
P.O. Box 6015  
Gaithersburg, MD 20884-6015**

**or visit:**

**Room 1100  
700 4th St. NW (corner of 4th and G Sts. NW)  
U.S. General Accounting Office  
Washington, DC**

**Orders may also be placed by calling (202) 512-6000  
or by using fax number (301) 258-4066, or TDD (301) 413-0006.**

**Each day, GAO issues a list of newly available reports and testimony. To receive facsimile copies of the daily list or any list from the past 30 days, please call (202) 512-6000 using a touchtone phone. A recorded menu will provide information on how to obtain these lists.**

**For information on how to access GAO reports on the INTERNET, send an e-mail message with "info" in the body to:**

**info@www.gao.gov**

**or visit GAO's World Wide Web Home Page at:**

**http://www.gao.gov**

**United States  
General Accounting Office  
Washington, D.C. 20548-0001**

**Bulk Rate  
Postage & Fees Paid  
GAO  
Permit No. G100**

**Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300**

**Address Correction Requested**



**U.S. Department of Education**  
Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)  
National Library of Education (NLE)  
Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)



## NOTICE

### Reproduction Basis



This document is covered by a signed "Reproduction Release (Blanket)" form (on file within the ERIC system), encompassing all or classes of documents from its source organization and, therefore, does not require a "Specific Document" Release form.



This document is Federally-funded, or carries its own permission to reproduce, or is otherwise in the public domain and, therefore, may be reproduced by ERIC without a signed Reproduction Release form (either "Specific Document" or "Blanket").

EFF-089 (3/2000)