

RESOURCE FAMILY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 26, 2013

State of Maine DHHS Office of Child and Family Services

NEW PROCESS FOR FINGERPRINT BACKGROUND CHECKS

Resource Family applicants will no longer be required to go to their local police departments in order to comply with licensing approval requirements for fingerprint-based background checks. Applicants can now go to vendor sites in the community for their fingerprinting.

Six fixed sites will provide services, as well as a number of mobile sites which will provide fingerprinting on a regularly-scheduled basis. The six fixed site locations are in Augusta, Brewer, Portland, Presque Isle, Lewiston, and Sanford.

Advance electronic technology used at the vendor sites will produce much higher quality printing than was previously afforded by the inkjet methods of printing. There will be a significant decrease in the need for reprinting of individuals, as the higher quality prints will allow for matching to prints on the national criminal databases.

All appointments for fingerprinting are scheduled through online scheduling and pre-payment for fingerprinting using a credit card. Resource unit staff will provide applicants with detailed instructions to guide applicants through the process.

The vendor provides a call center for those seeking assistance with scheduling. The call center phone contact number is 855-667-7422. The vendor's website address is www.lidentigo.com.



Thank you for all you do each day!

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

In order to avoid your reimbursement for approved transportation to be rejected for payment, please ensure you submit your mileage reimbursement forms in a timely manner. When requesting reimbursement that exceeds a \$25 reimbursement, the form must be submitted within 30 days of the date of transportation.

For requests under \$25 total reimbursement, the form must be submitted within 60 days of the date of provision of transportation.

HOW CAN THIS NEWSLETTER BE MORE HELPFUL TO YOU?

DHHS Office of Child and Family Services is committed to providing you with timely information and updates occurring within this office. The goal of this newsletter is to provide a more direct communication linkage between OCFS and resource families than we have been able to provide in the past.

It will be helpful to us to hear how this newsletter can meet your needs relating to issues important to you. Is there some question or practice about which you would like to have more information? Please feel welcome to email your questions to Linda.Brissette@maine.gov. Each month, we commit to include at least one of your questions in this newsletter, with a response from an individual within DHHS who can best answer your question. Unless you note a preference to have your name connected to the question, all questions answered in the newsletter will carry no name of the person requesting a response from OCFS.



***Athletics/Field Trip General
Release Form***

If your child's caseworker has not already completed a general release form allowing the child to participate in school sports and field trips, please remind the caseworker to complete this task prior to the start of the new school year. Once the caseworker has signed the general release form, you, as resource parent, will be able to sign individual school permission slips to allow child's participation.

Promptly returning their phone calls and responding to their emails are identified by resource parents as having direct relationship to the degree of satisfaction with which they view their interaction with OCFS staff.



Use of Social Media

A new workgroup is meeting on a regular schedule to develop policy relating to use of social media. The policy will provide guidance to OCFS staff, to resource parents, and to youth in care regarding use of social media. Use of social media such as FACEBOOK and Twitter is characterized by a growing and ever-changing landscape of technological possibilities, and OCFS has been asked to provide guidance relating to its use.

Older youth in care are represented as workgroup participants and are being viewed as the "expert users" of social media. Other group members hope to learn from older youth in care some of the strategies which resource parents may wish to use to ensure use of social media by younger youth is as safe as possible, given the reality that monitoring usage by youth is always challenging.

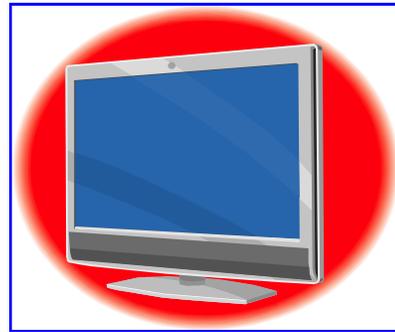
Among questions to be explored during development of this policy will be the question of whether or not it is ever appropriate for resource parents to post pictures of children in care on social media sites. Once again, older youth in care will provide input into whether or not this posting of their pictures along with other family members is viewed as a normal inclusion of them in the life of the family or is viewed as an invasion of their privacy.

If you have suggestions for this workgroup, please email your input to Linda.Brissette@maine.gov.

Prevention of Injuries to Children From Falling Television Sets

Reuters recently carried an online article written by Andrew Seaman who reported on a recent study conducted by the Child Injury Prevention Alliance which found that a child is rushed to a U.S. emergency department every 45 minutes with an injury relating to a falling television. According to the study results, these injuries are occurring primarily to younger children. The head and neck area was the most common site of injury, and cuts, bruises, and concussions were the most common types of injuries.

The study notes a need for more public awareness of the need to securely anchor the TV— no matter what type of TV- to the wall. Most parents are unaware that falling TVs can present such high risk of serious injury. When newer model TVs are brought into a home, parents frequently put older models of TVs in children's bedrooms or playrooms on top of bureaus or dressers which were not designed to safely support a TV. More information may be accessed at <http://preventchildinjury.org/resources/site1/General/FactSheets/Safely-Securing-Your-TV-Web.pdf>



**Look for this newsletter
online on the DHHS
website!!!**

If you prefer to continue
receiving the newsletter through
postal mail, please email
Glenda.C.Hamilton@maine.gov

LICENSING INFORMATION WHICH IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

General licensing information that is available to the public is restricted to : whether the home is licensed, name and address of licensee, number of children the home is licensed for, expiration date of the license, and the type of license including any condition placed on the license. The law governing Records Disclosure (Title 22 M.R.S.A., Section 7703) must be applied to all other requests for information.