


STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Department of Children and Families  
Division of Safety and Permanence

To:            Area Administrators/ Human Services Area Coordinators  
                Bureau Directors  
                Child Placing Agency Directors  
                Child Welfare Agency Directors  
                County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
                County Departments of Developmental Disabilities  
                        Services Directors  
                County Departments of Human Services Directors  
                County Departments of Social Services Directors  
                Indian Child Welfare Directors  
                Licensing Chiefs/Section Chiefs  
                Tribal Chairpersons/Human Services Facilitators

From:        Cyrus Behroozi   
                Administrator

Re:            Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act Questions and Answers

DCFS Memo Series 2007-20 explained the requirements of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (Section 471(a)(20)(A) of the Social Security Act), a federal law passed in 2006 that requires licensing agencies to conduct fingerprint-based background checks of prospective foster and adoptive parents and to check prospective foster and adoptive parents and other adults in their household against child abuse and neglect registries in the licensing state and in other states under specified circumstances. On April 1, 2008, new U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service regulations (8 CFR 204.311) on international adoption (also known as the Hague Convention rules) went into effect to require that every international adoption home study include a child abuse and neglect background check of the prospective parent and other household adults in every state or country they have lived in since age 18.

This informational memo provides answers to commonly asked questions regarding the implementation of these federal requirements. These answers include guidance for informing applicants of their denial based on a criminal conviction and clarification of policy previously issued in DCFS Memo Series 2007-20 regarding background checks of foster parents becoming adoptive parents, fingerprinting agency staff and FBI record storage and retention. Please refer to the attachment at the end of this memo for the questions and answers.

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT:            Area Administrator

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT:            For CAN Registry Checks:  
   Julie Bachir  
   CPS Policy and Consultation Specialist  
   Child Welfare and Family Violence Programs  
   DCF/DSP/BSW  
   1 W. Wilson St. Room 550  
   Madison, WI 53708-8916  
   Phone: 608-267-2073  
   E-Mail: [Julie.Bachir@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Julie.Bachir@wisconsin.gov)

For Fingerprinting:  
Jonelle Brom  
Out-of-Home Care Specialist  
DCF/DSP  
1 W. Wilson St.  
Madison, WI 53708-8916  
Phone: (608) 264-6933  
FAX: (608) 264-6750  
E-Mail: [Jonelle.Brom@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jonelle.Brom@wisconsin.gov)

MEMO WEB SITE: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos>

Attachments: [Adam Walsh Questions and Answers](#) (Word version)  
[DCFS Memo Series 2007-16](#)

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