

ACCESS TO CHILD CARE BACKGROUND CHECKS

TRIBAL CONSULTATION 2026

REQUESTED ACTION

At the 2024 and 2025 Tribal Consultation meeting, Tribal Leaders requested and DCF committed to inquire with federal, tribal, and state partners to see whether existing Tribal Access Program (TAP) kiosks in tribal communities could be utilized for child care and Head Start background check fingerprinting.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

To use fingerprinting machines for **state regulated** child care background checks, fingerprints must either:

- Be submitted to Wisconsin DOJ via Fieldprint, or
- If submitting via an agency owned/operated device, that device must connect to the WI DOJ via BadgerNet.

The current fingerprint process via Fieldprint meets all state statutory and FBI requirements for state regulated child care background checks, the current TAP process does not.

Currently, TAP kiosks connect to the US DOJ database, they do not connect to the Wisconsin DOJ database. BadgerNet access is needed to connect to the Wisconsin DOJ database. The Wisconsin DOJ database and the US DOJ database do not share information with each other.

A Livescan device may be configured to meet the requirements for child care fingerprint background checks.

NEXT STEPS:

- Tribal Nations will need to consult with the US DOJ to assess whether it is feasible and allowable to connect TAP device to multiple networks (see Q & A).
- Tribal Nations may want to explore additional options including the purchase of a Livescan device.
- Depending on the option selected, and in consultation with WI DOJ and US DOJ, state statutory change may be needed to fully implement the necessary changes.



Q&A

DCF, in collaboration with WI DOJ, has explored the following questions/scenarios:

Q: Is it feasible to use a TAP device as it is currently programmed to submit fingerprint background checks for childcare?

A: No, background checks using a TAP device would not be routed via the CJIS Systems Agency (WI DOJ CSA) as required by FBI policy.

Q: Is it possible to re-configure a TAP device to submit fingerprint background checks for child care?

A: Unknown. It is uncertain if TAP device can connect to two different networks (US DOJ and WI BadgerNet) at one time. To answer this question, Tribal Leaders must discuss this possibility with the US DOJ and WI DOJ.

Q: What is a Livescan device?

A: An electronic device used to capture fingerprints and palm prints digitally, without the use of ink. It can be connected to a local system, including the WI DOJ database via BadgerNet.

Q: Could an agency purchase a Livescan device, separate from the TAP device, to electronically submit fingerprints background checks for child care?





















A: An agency can purchase a Livescan device, and the agency, WI DOA, and WI DOJ could work together to connect the device to BadgerNet.



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

ACCESS TO BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE REGULATED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

The table below shows whether a background check requirement can be met through each device.

Background Check Requirement*	FIELDPRINT	LIVE SCAN DEVICE**	TAP KIOSK^
A fingerprint or name-based criminal history search from the records maintained by WI DOJ			
A fingerprint-based criminal history search using the FBI next generation identification			
Information contained in the registry under s. 146.40(g) regarding findings against the person (DHS)			
Information maintained by the department of safety and professional services regarding the status of the person's credentials			
Information maintained by the department (DCF) regarding any final determination that the person abused or neglected a child.			
Information maintained by WI DHS regarding any denial of a license to operate or reside at an entity or child care program.			
Information contained the state sex offender registry			
A search of the national crime information center's national sex offender registry			

*requirements in accordance with Wis. Stat. 48.686 and Public Law 92-544


















** with proper configuration

^ as currently configured



FINGERPRINTING PROCESSING AND CONNECTIVITY

The table below shows whether the process and connectivity task requirement can be met through each device.

TASK	FIELDPRINT	LIVESCAN DEVICE**	TAP KIOSK^
Ability to retrieve fingerprints			
Approved as the legal authority to submit fingerprint-based background checks under the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) policy.			
Fingerprints collected can be routed to the Wisconsin Department of Justice Crime Information Bureau (WI CSA).			
Can transfer results of background checks to Wisconsin Online Record Check (WORCS), where DCF can access through their own account.			
Connected to Wisconsin's BadgerNet network for transferring information electronically			
Ability to send fingerprints to DCF for review (either through network connection, or manually)			

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^ as currently configured

