

FBI Clearances Information - Fingerprinting

Mandatory for any household member over the age of 18

At this time, Pennsylvania is in the process of amending the Child Protective Services Law to comply with the Federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 which requires that foster and adoptive parents obtain fingerprint based FBI clearances. Pennsylvania must begin this process on January 2, 2008.

OCYF PLANNING FOR ADAM WALSH IMPLEMENTATION - The Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) convened a select group of representatives from its regional offices, as well as from county and provider associations on Tuesday, December 18. The meeting addressed implementation issues pertaining to the Federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, which will become effective in Pennsylvania on January 2, 2008. Governor Rendell signed the enabling legislation on December 18 (Act 73 of 2007).

The law now requires that foster and adoptive parent applicants, as well as all other adults over the age of 18 residing in their home as of January 2, 2008, secure FBI clearances using fingerprint identification. A similar requirement will become effective July 1, 2008 for all prospective childcare employees as defined in the CPSL. Current foster parents will be "grandfathered in" until the two-year anniversary of their most recent child abuse/record check clearances. Also, foster parents who recently obtained their FBI clearances will not need to repeat the process until the two-year anniversary of their most recent child abuse/record check clearances.

Beginning January 2, 2008, the fingerprint process will consist of three steps:

1. The applicant registers and pays via Cogent System's on-line service site at www.pa.cogentid.com. Payment may be made on line by credit card at this time. For applicants who do not have internet access, they may register over the phone by calling 1-888-439-2486. ****Please register under the Department of Public Welfare. Reason for Fingerprinting should be Adoption or Adoption/Foster.**
2. The applicant visits a Fingerprint Service Site, provides acceptable documentation to verify identity, and submits fingerprints. Photo ID and social security number confirmation will be required of the applicant at the site. Payment may be made at the Fingerprint Service Site only by a money order in the amount of \$30.25 payable to Cogent Systems. Cash will not be accepted!

Visit Cogent System's on-line service site at www.pa.cogentid.com to find the fingerprinting center nearest to you.

3. Results are returned to the authorized recipient (DPW). Initial time frames to receive results are anticipated to be 4-6 weeks.

Note: Applicants should not begin on-line registration for the Adam Walsh required fingerprint process prior to January 2, 2008. A separate web page is under development to support registration for prospective adoptive/foster parents. The current page references only the specific requirements for prospective/current employees of the Pennsylvania Department of Education