

Voluntary Background Check Program

In February 2015, DCH implemented the Georgia Voluntary Background Check Program which will allow for certain facility types to have their direct access employees receive a GCIC and FBI fingerprint based background check. In January, employees of home health agencies and private home care providers can elect to participate in the voluntary program and be able to get a state and national fingerprint check done on their employees and applicants for employment. DCH will review the criminal history and issue either a satisfactory or unsatisfactory determination. In April 2015, DCH expanded the voluntary program to nursing homes, hospice, and long-term acute care hospitals.

In addition to the fingerprint checks, participants in the voluntary program will agree to conduct checks of various registries to ensure the health and safety of their clients and patients. These will include the Georgia Sex Offender Registry, Georgia Nurse Aide Registry, Georgia Medication Nurse Aide Registry, and the federal List of Excluded Individuals/Entities.

Facilities that elect to participate in the voluntary program will be required to complete a participation statement and agree to comply with the policy. At any time the facility may terminate its participation in the program. Facilities who participate in the program will not be required to conduct background checks of their employees and job applicants as this voluntary program is simply a process to allow them to obtain a state and national fingerprint based background check.