DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

BACKGROUND STUDY NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Because the Department of Human Services (DHS) is asking you to provide private information, you have privacy rights under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. This law protects your privacy, but also allows DHS to give information about you to others when the law requires it. This notice describes how your private information may be used and disclosed, and how you may access your information.

Why is DHS asking me for my private information?

A background study from the Department of Human Services (DHS) is required for your job or position. The private information is needed to conduct the background study.

How will I be notified that a background study was submitted on me?

DHS will mail you a notice within three working days after a request for a background study is submitted on you. The notice will contain the background study result or let you know that more time is needed to complete the background study. The notice will also identify the entity that submitted the background study request.

What information must I provide to complete the background study?

You are required to provide enough information to ensure an accurate and complete background study. This includes your:

- first, middle, and last name and all names you have ever been known by or used;
- current home address, city, zip code, and state of residence;
- previous home addresses, city, county, and states of residence for the last five years;
- sex and date of birth;
- driver's license or other identification number; and,
- fingerprints and a photograph, as required by law.

How will the information that I give be used?

The information will be used to perform a background study that will include a check to determine whether you have any criminal records and/or have been found responsible for substantiated maltreatment of a vulnerable adult or child. When required, there will be a search of professional boards. Background study data is classified as "private data" and cannot be shared without your consent except as explained in this notice. Your information will also be used by DHS to collect on-going criminal and maltreatment data if it becomes available.

What may happen if I provide the information?

You could be disqualified from positions that require a DHS background study if you are found to have committed certain crimes, been determined responsible for maltreatment of a vulnerable adult or child, or have other records that require a disqualification. If you do not have a disqualifying record, you will be cleared for your job or position.

What if I refuse to provide the information?

You will be disqualified if you refuse to provide information to complete an accurate background study. You will not be able to work in a position that requires a DHS background study.

Who will DHS give my information to?

DHS will only share information about you as needed and as allowed or required by law. The identifying information you provide will be shared with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) and in some cases the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). If there is reasonable cause to believe that other agencies may have information related to a disqualification, your identifying information may also be shared with:

- county attorneys, sheriffs, and agencies;
- courts and juvenile courts;
- local police;
- the Office of the Attorney General; and,
- agencies with criminal record information systems in other states.

What information will DHS share with the entity that requested my background study?

The entity that requested the background study will be notified of your background study determination.

If you are disqualified, the entity will not be told the reason unless you were disqualified for refusing to cooperate with the background study or for substantiated maltreatment of a minor or vulnerable adult.

What other entities might DHS share information with?

Information about your Background study may be shared with:

- the Minnesota Department of Health;
- the Minnesota Department of Corrections;
- the Office of the Attorney General, and;
- health-related licensing boards.

What if my disqualification is set aside?

If you request reconsideration of your disqualification and your disqualification is set aside, the entity that requested the background study will be informed of the reason(s) for your disqualification unless the law states otherwise. DHS will provide information about the decision to set aside your disqualification if the entity requests it.

Unless prohibited by law, your name and the reason(s) for your disqualification will become public data if your set aside is for:

- a child care center or a family child care provider licensed under chapter 245A; or,
- an offense identified in section 245C.15, subdivision 2.

For future background studies submitted by entities that provide the same type of services as the services you were set aside for, the set aside will apply unless:

- you were disqualified for an offense in section 245C.15, subdivision 1 or 2; or,
- DHS receives additional information indicating that you pose a risk of harm; or,
- your set aside was limited to a specific person receiving services.

In addition, those entities will be informed of the reason(s) for your disqualification unless prohibited by law.

Will my fingerprints be kept?

DHS and the BCA will not keep your fingerprints. If an FBI check is required for your background study, the FBI may keep your fingerprints and may use them for other purposes in accordance with state and federal law.

What information can the fingerprint and photo site view and keep?

The fingerprint and photo site can view identifying information to verify your identify. The fingerprint and photo site will not keep your fingerprints, photo, or most other information. The fingerprint and photo site can keep your name and the date and time your fingerprints were recorded and sent, for auditing and billing purposes.

Who can see my photo?

Your photo will be kept by DHS. If you provide your social security number to allow your background study to be transferable to future entities, your photo will be available to those entities to verify your identity.

What are my rights about the information you have about me?

- You may ask if we have information about you and request in writing to get copies. You may have to pay for copies.
- You may give other people permission to see and have copies of private information about you.
- You may ask (in writing) for a report that lists the entities that submitted a background study request on you.
- You may ask in writing that the information used to complete your background study be destroyed. The information will be destroyed if you have:

  (1) not been affiliated with any entity for the previous two years; and,
  (2) no current disqualifying characteristic(s).

Please send all written requests to:

Minnesota Department of Human Services
Background Studies Division
NETStudy 2.0 Coordinator
PO Box 64242
St. Paul, MN 55164-0242

How long will DHS keep my background study information?

DHS will destroy:

- your photo when you have not been affiliated with an entity for two years.
- any background data collected on you after two years following your death or 90 years after your date of birth, except when readily available data indicates that you are still living.

What is the legal authority for DHS to conduct background studies?

Background studies are completed by DHS according to the requirements in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 245C or other authorizing state law.

What if I think my privacy rights have been violated?

You may report a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated. If you think that the Minnesota Department of Human Services violated your privacy rights, you may send a written complaint to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Privacy Official at:

Minnesota Department of Human Services
Privacy Official
PO Box 64998
St. Paul, MN 55164-0998

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Minnesota law requires some background studies conducted by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to include a fingerprint-based Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) record check. The FBI requires that you be provided the following Privacy Act Statement if a FBI record check is conducted as part of your DHS background study.

FBI Privacy Act Statement

Authority: The FBI's acquisition, preservation, and exchange of fingerprints and associated information is generally authorized under 28 U.S.C. 534. Depending on the nature of your application, supplemental authorities include Federal statutes, State statutes pursuant to Pub. L. 92-544, Presidential Executive Orders, and federal regulations. Providing your fingerprints and associated information is voluntary; however, failure to do so may affect completion or approval of your application.

Principal Purpose: Certain determinations, such as employment, licensing, and security clearances, may be predicated on fingerprint-based background checks. Your fingerprints and associated information/biometrics may be provided to the employing, investigating, or otherwise responsible agency, and/or the FBI for the purpose of comparing your fingerprints to other fingerprints in the FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) system or its successor systems (including civil, criminal, and latent fingerprint repositories) or other available records of the employing, investigating, or otherwise responsible agency. The FBI may retain your fingerprints and associated information/biometrics in NGI after the completion of this application and, while retained, your fingerprints may continue to be compared against other fingerprints submitted to or retained by NGI.

Routine Uses: During the processing of this application and for as long thereafter as your fingerprints and associated information/biometrics are retained in NGI, your information may be disclosed pursuant to your consent, and may be disclosed without your consent as permitted by the Privacy Act of 1974 and all applicable Routine Uses as may be published at any time in the Federal Register, including the Routine Uses for the NGI system and the FBI's Blanket Routine Uses. Routine uses include, but are not limited to, disclosures to: employing, governmental or authorized non-governmental agencies responsible for employment, contracting, licensing, security clearances, and other suitability determinations; local, state, tribal, or federal law enforcement agencies; criminal justice agencies; and agencies responsible for national security or public safety.

Your Rights

You have the right to directly obtain your FBI record and to work with the FBI to correct your record if it is wrong. You are not required to do this, but if you want to you must send your fingerprints and a fee to the FBI. Information about the process is on the FBI's web site at https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks

If your background study results in a disqualification, you will be provided with information about how to ask DHS for reconsideration of the determination. At that time, you may inform DHS that the information used was wrong (this is a correctness review) and/or that the disqualification should not apply (this is a risk of harm review).