



Practice Alert

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR SAFETY PLANNING PURPOSES

The purpose of this Practice Alert is to inform staff law enforcement or other multidisciplinary team members with access to criminal background systems will no longer be allowed to complete Purpose Code C background checks in conjunction with safety planning during co-investigations. Staff **shall only** request criminal background checks from law enforcement pursuant to those which are necessary at the time of emergency protective custody as outlined in [Section 4.3.1.2 Protective Custody of the Child](#).

Law enforcement may choose to complete criminal background screenings in conjunction with co-investigative work without the request of the Division and they may choose whether or not to share the information. Staff should document and utilize any pertinent information shared for the purpose of establishing children's safety.

Staff should utilize other mechanisms to establish child safety with regards to voluntary placements which occur during the safety planning process including:

- FACES Prior History Search
- www.Case.Net
- Family Care Safety Registry
- Sex Offender List by address, [Search Missouri Sex Offender Registry](#)
- www.VINELink.com
- Completing a walkthrough of the voluntary placement home

Local offices are encouraged to meet with their multidisciplinary teams to discuss this change and to establish local protocols for the continued establishment of children's safety.

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