



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

DATE: January 9, 2017

TO: Regional Managing Directors
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

THROUGH: David L. Fairbanks, Deputy Secretary *DF*
Vicki Abrams, Assistant Secretary of Operations *VA*
JoShonda Guerrier, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare *JSG*

FROM: Traci Leavine, Director of Child Welfare Practice *TL*
Pat Badland, Director Child Welfare Operations

SUBJECT: Residential Group Home Staff Abuse Registry Background Checks Pilot

PURPOSE: The Office of Child Welfare (OCW) is currently developing a process to complete central abuse hotline checks for employees of Child Caring Agencies (residential group homes). Once the process has been finalized, a statewide pilot of the process will occur from February 2017 to March 2017.

BACKGROUND: Section 409.145(2)(e), F.S., requires all caregivers in residential group homes to meet the same education, training, and background and other screening requirements as foster parents. The Department is proposing that Department's Background Screening Unit be responsible for completing central abuse hotline checks for caregivers and other applicants seeking employment at residential group homes. This process will apply to existing employees, new applicants, and for each employee upon their residential group homes agency's annual re-licensure.

ACTION NEEDED: In preparation for the pilot, each Region should designate a single point of contact to assist in the coordination of the pilot. Each Region should also identify two (2) residential group homes to participate in the pilot. **On or before, Friday, January 20, 2017** please email the single point of contact's name, email address and telephone number to Courtney.Smith@myflfamilies.com

CONTACT INFORMATION: Should you have questions, please contact Courtney Smith, Permanency and Well-Being Manager, Office of Child Welfare at (850) 717-4660 or Courtney.Smith@myflfamilies.com

cc: Elisa Cramer, Director of Child Welfare Strategic Projects
Ginger Griffeth, Director of Child Welfare Performance and Quality Management
Regional Family and Community Services Directors

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Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency