

# Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers & Family Child Care Homes

Our mission is to protect and promote the health, safety, and mental development of children cared for in children's centers and family child care homes in Pinellas County



**Patsy Buker, Executive Director**  
**Celeste Fernandez, Interim Chairperson**

July 7, 2017

Dear Children's Center Provider:

As you are aware, Background Screening requirements for Children's Center directors, owners and employees have changed, effective July 1, 2016. According to Chapter 402.302, Florida Statutes:

"Screening means the act of assessing the background of child care personnel, in accordance with state and federal law, and volunteers and includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Employment history checks, including documented attempts to contact each employer that employed the applicant within the preceding 5 years and documentation of the findings.
- (b) A search of the criminal history records, sexual predator and sexual offender registry, and child abuse and neglect registry of any state in which the applicant resided during the preceding 5 years."

When you screen an individual in the Clearinghouse, you are getting the results of a criminal history check, a Florida abuse and neglect registry check and a Florida sexual offender registry check when you get a DCF Child Care Eligible date.

Since the new screening requirements are more extensive than before, and since everyone who works in child care was required to be screened under these new requirements after July 1, 2016, it has been determined by the Child Care Licensing office that Local Background Checks for the county of residence are no longer needed.

**As of today's date, Licensing Specialists will no longer be reviewing personnel files for current Local Background Screening Results. Should you choose to continue to do them for your employees, that would be at your own discretion and will not be subject to review as part of a licensing inspection.**

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (727) 507-4857. Thank you for your continued dedication to the children in care in Pinellas County.

Sincerely,

Jorie Massarsky  
Children's Center Supervisor



