Montana Self-Verification Guide: Detecting Possible Misuse of Benefits and Services in Your Name (Parents & Caregivers)

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Montana Self-Verification Guide

Detecting Possible Misuse of Benefits and Services in Your Name (Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians)

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Purpose: This document provides a Montana-specific, legally safe pathway for parents, caregivers, and guardians to verify whether public benefits or services were billed, paid, or claimed using their own identity or that of a dependent, and outlines official steps to take when discrepancies are identified.

Introduction

Social media and news reporting sometimes describe situations where services appear to have been billed, reimbursed, or publicly funded in a person's name—or a child's name—without the individual's knowledge or consent. In Montana, there is **no single public "name search" clearinghouse** that aggregates every program's payments or claims.

Records are maintained by administering agencies under state and federal confidentiality rules. The practical solution is **self-verification**: review official records you are entitled to as a parent/guardian, then use official complaint and fraud channels if you find a discrepancy.

Section 1 — Licensed Child Care Verification (Montana DPHHS)

Montana child care licensing and provider oversight are administered through the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS). The state provides official public search tools for licensed providers and related inspection/complaint information.

1.1 Official child care licensing landing page

DPHHS — Child Care Licensing:
https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/childcarelicensing/ **[1]**

1.2 Official licensed provider search

DPHHS — Provider Search (Child Care Licensing):
https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/childcarelicensing/providersearch **[2]**

1.3 Optional: statewide provider dashboard (summary view)

DPHHS — Childcare Providers Dashboard:
https://dphhs.mt.gov/childcareprovidersdashboard **[3]**

Section 2 — Child Care Subsidy (Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship) (Montana DPHHS)

Montana’s primary child care subsidy program is the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship Program, administered by DPHHS. Payments may be issued to providers on behalf of eligible families.

2.1 Official program information

DPHHS — Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship Program:
https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/BestBeginningsScholarships **[4]**

2.2 Official online application portal

Best Beginnings Online Application:
https://app.mt.gov/ccubs/ **[5]**

2.3 What parents/guardians should review

- **Authorization/eligibility notices** (provider name, approved dates, and any family copayment).
- **Provider identity and licensing status** using Provider Search (Section 1.2). **[2]**
- **Dates of care/attendance** compared to what you believe occurred.
- **Any ongoing portal activity** (retain screenshots/confirmations from the application system). **[5]**

Section 3 — Health Coverage Claims (Montana Medicaid) and Fraud Reporting

Health services billed under Montana Medicaid generate claims records through program and plan systems. These records are the primary method for verifying whether services were billed in your or your child's name.

3.1 DPHHS Medicaid fraud and abuse reporting (member/client fraud hotline)

DPHHS — Medicaid Fraud and Abuse:
https://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/fraudandabuse **[6]**

3.2 Montana DOJ — Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (provider fraud / investigations)

Montana Department of Justice (DCI) — Medicaid Fraud Control Unit:
https://dojmt.gov/dci-home/investigations-bureau/medicaid-fraud-control-unit/ **[7]**

3.3 What to check

- Dates of service (were you/your child present?).
- Provider names/locations you recognize (or do not recognize).
- Claims continuing after coverage/provider changes.

Section 4 — Public Records Requests (Montana Public Information Requests)

Montana agencies accept public records / public information requests under Montana's "right to know" framework and related statutes. Records involving minors and health/benefit cases may be exempt or restricted; however, parents/guardians can request records they are legally entitled to receive and request written explanations for denials or redactions.

4.1 Example official request portal (Montana DOJ)

Montana DOJ — Public Records Requests:
https://dojmt.gov/public-records-requests/ **[8]**

4.2 Statutory reference example (fees for public information requests)

Montana Code Annotated — 2-6-1006 (Public information requests — fees):
https://archive.legmt.gov/bills/mca/title_0020/chapter_0060/part_0100/section_0060/[REDACTED].html
[9]

4.3 Recommended request structure (practical)

1. Identify yourself as the parent/guardian and list the dependent(s) involved.
2. Specify the program (Best Beginnings Scholarship, Medicaid, etc.), provider name(s), and date range.
3. Request "records sufficient to show" payments/claims made on behalf of your dependent for that period.
4. Ask for a written explanation of any confidentiality limitations, exemptions, and redactions applied.

Section 5 — Reporting Suspected Fraud (Montana Official Channels)

Preserve documentation first (letters, notices, provider names/addresses, dates, screenshots, attendance records). Then use official reporting channels appropriate to the program type.

5.1 Medicaid fraud / abuse

- DPHHS — Medicaid Fraud and Abuse: https://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/fraudandabuse **[6]**
- Montana DOJ — Medicaid Fraud Control Unit: https://dojmt.gov/dci-home/investigations-bureau/medicaid-fraud-control-unit/ **[7]**

5.2 Program complaints and reporting (DPHHS Quality Assurance Division)

DPHHS — Complaints and Reporting (includes facility complaints and provider fraud references): https://dphhs.mt.gov/qad/QADComplaint **[10]**

Section 6 — Public “Red Flag” Patterns (For Awareness Only)

The following markers do not prove misconduct, but they can help families know when to verify records or request clarification:

- **Date mismatch:** claims/payments on days the child was not in care or not receiving the service.
- **Provider mismatch:** provider listed that the family never used.
- **Duration mismatch:** billing continues after termination/withdrawal.
- **Authorization mismatch:** billed hours exceed authorized hours.
- **Identity mismatch:** communications/records referencing a child/dependent you do not recognize.

Appendix A — Official Montana Resources

1. **DPHHS Child Care Licensing:** https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/childcarelicensing/ **[1]**
2. **DPHHS Provider Search (Child Care Licensing):** https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/childcarelicensing/providersearch **[2]**
3. **DPHHS Childcare Providers Dashboard:** https://dphhs.mt.gov/childcareprovidersdashboard **[3]**
4. **Best Beginnings Scholarships (DPHHS):** https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/BestBeginningsScholarships **[4]**
5. **Best Beginnings Online Application:** https://app.mt.gov/ccubs/ **[5]**
6. **DPHHS Medicaid Fraud and Abuse:** https://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/fraudandabuse **[6]**
7. **Montana DOJ Medicaid Fraud Control Unit:** https://dojmt.gov/dci-home/investigations-bureau/medicaid-fraud-control-unit/ **[7]**
8. **Montana DOJ Public Records Requests:** https://dojmt.gov/public-records-requests/ **[8]**
9. **MCA 2-6-1006 (fees):** https://archive.legmt.gov/bills/mca/title_0020/chapter_0060/part_0100/section_0060/[REDACTED].html **[9]**
10. **DPHHS Complaints and Reporting:** https://dphhs.mt.gov/qad/QADComplaint **[10]**

Appendix B — Selected Legal and Policy References (Short Excerpts)

B.1 Public information request fees (MCA 2-6-1006)

Montana law includes provisions allowing agencies to charge documented fees for fulfilling public information requests, subject to limits and requirements. **[9]**

B.2 Federal CCDF confidentiality (45 CFR Part 98)

Federal child care subsidy rules (CCDF) include confidentiality requirements for personally identifiable information. eCFR reference:
https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-A/subchapter-A/part-98/subpart-B/section-98.15

References (Citation List)

1. [1] Montana DPHHS. “Child Care Licensing.” https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/childcarelicensing/
2. [2] Montana DPHHS. “Provider Search — Child Care Licensing.” https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/childcarelicensing/providersearch
3. [3] Montana DPHHS. “Childcare Providers Dashboard.” https://dphhs.mt.gov/childcareprovidersdashboard
4. [4] Montana DPHHS. “Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship Program.” https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/BestBeginningsScholarships
5. [5] State of Montana. “Best Beginnings Online Application.” https://app.mt.gov/ccubs/
6. [6] Montana DPHHS. “Medicaid Fraud and Abuse.” https://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/fraudandabuse
7. [7] Montana Department of Justice (DCI). “Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.” https://dojmt.gov/dci-home/investigations-bureau/medicaid-fraud-control-unit/
8. [8] Montana Department of Justice. “Public Records Requests.” https://dojmt.gov/public-records-requests/
9. [9] Montana Legislature (MCA). “2-6-1006. Public information requests — fees.” https://archive.legmt.gov/bills/mca/title_0020/chapter_0060/part_0100/section_0060/[REDACTED].html
10. [10] Montana DPHHS. “Complaints and Reporting.” https://dphhs.mt.gov/qad/QADComplaint

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