



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

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New York 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 New York-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

Public conversations sometimes describe situations where services appear to have been billed, reimbursed, or publicly funded in a parent's or child's name without the family's knowledge. In New York, there is **no single public, name-searchable clearinghouse** that aggregates every program's payments or claims.

Records are held by administering agencies under state and federal confidentiality requirements. The practical approach is **self-verification**: review the official records you are entitled to as a parent/guardian, then use official dispute and fraud-reporting channels when discrepancies appear.

Section 1 — Regulated Child Care Verification (New York State OCFS)

New York State’s Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) provides the primary statewide database for regulated child care providers. Note: OCFS indicates the statewide database excludes certain New York City day care centers regulated by NYC agencies. **[1][2]**

1.1 Official statewide provider search (OCFS)

OCFS — Search for Child Care:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/looking/ccfs-search.php> **[1]**

1.2 Official “Find Child Care” overview (OCFS)

OCFS — Find Child Care (overview and guidance):

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/looking/> **[2]**

1.3 If your provider is in New York City (NYC DOHMH)

NYC Health Department — Search for Child Care Services:

<https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/ChildCare/search.action> **[3]**

Section 2 — Child Care Subsidy (Child Care Assistance Program, CCAP) (New York OCFS / Local Districts)

New York’s Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides financial assistance for eligible families. Administration and eligibility processing often occur through local social services districts, with OCFS providing official statewide guidance. [4][5]

2.1 Official CCAP program information (OCFS)

OCFS — Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP):

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/ccap/> [4]

2.2 State entry point to benefits portal (NY.gov)

myBenefits (NY.gov) — includes “Child Care Assistance” program entry:

<https://mybenefits.ny.gov/> [6]

2.3 What parents/guardians should review

- **Eligibility/authorization notices** (provider name, approved dates, and any family copayment).
- **Provider identity** using the official OCFS search (Section 1.1) and/or NYC search (Section 1.3). [1][3]
- **Dates of care/attendance** versus what you believe occurred.
- **Any provider changes** reflected in notices or portal communications (retain copies/screenshots).

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

Health services billed under New York Medicaid generate claims records within program and plan systems. Claims and explanation-of-benefits (EOB) style records are typically the most direct way for a parent/guardian to detect services billed in their child's name that they do not recognize.

3.1 Official Medicaid fraud reporting (NY Office of the Medicaid Inspector General)

OMIG — File an Allegation (Medicaid fraud):

<https://omig.ny.gov/medicaid-fraud/file-allegation> [7]

OMIG also publishes its fraud hotline number and electronic submission options. [7]

Section 4 — Public Records Requests (New York FOIL)

New York public records access is governed by the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL). Records involving minors and individual benefit or health cases may be exempt or restricted by confidentiality rules. However, parents/guardians can request records they are legally entitled to receive and request explanations for denials or redactions.

4.1 Official FOIL how-to guidance (Committee on Open Government)

NY Committee on Open Government — Make a FOIL Request:

<https://opengovernment.ny.gov/make-foil-request> [8]

4.2 Official FOIL overview and remedies (Committee on Open Government)

NY Committee on Open Government — Freedom of Information Law:

<https://opengovernment.ny.gov/freedom-information-law> [9]

4.3 Practical request structure (recommended)

1. Identify yourself as the parent/guardian and list the dependent(s) involved.
2. Specify the program (child care assistance, Medicaid, etc.), provider name(s), and date range.
3. Request “records sufficient to show” payments, authorizations, and/or 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 (New York Official Channels)

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

5.1 Medicaid fraud (state-level)

OMIG — File an Allegation:

<https://omig.ny.gov/medicaid-fraud/file-allegation> [7]

5.2 Child care program concerns

Use the OCFS CCAP page as the authoritative statewide entry point for official guidance and local-district direction:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/ccap/> [4]

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

The following markers do not prove misconduct, but they can indicate when additional verification is warranted:

- **Date mismatch:** payments/claims 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 (or care shown without authorization).
- **Identity mismatch:** records referencing a child/dependent you do not recognize.

Appendix A — Official New York Resources

1. **OCFS Child Care Search (statewide):** <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/looking/ccfs-search.php> [1]
2. **OCFS Find Child Care (overview):** <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/looking/> [2]
3. **NYC Health Dept — Child Care Search:** <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/ChildCare/search.action> [3]
4. **OCFS CCAP (Child Care Assistance):** <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/ccap/> [4]
5. **OCFS CCAP Help/Guidance:** <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/ccap/help.php> [5]
6. **myBenefits (NY.gov):** <https://mybenefits.ny.gov/> [6]
7. **OMIG File an Allegation (Medicaid fraud):** <https://omig.ny.gov/medicaid-fraud/file-allegation> [7]
8. **Committee on Open Government — Make a FOIL Request:** <https://opengovernment.ny.gov/make-foil-request> [8]
9. **Committee on Open Government — FOIL Overview:** <https://opengovernment.ny.gov/freedom-information-law> [9]

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

B.1 FOIL request best-practice (Committee on Open Government)

Short excerpt: “Be as specific as possible in describing the requested records.” [8]

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

Federal CCDF rules 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> [10]

Additional reference (Cornell LII): <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/45/98.15> [11]

References (Citation List)

1. [1] NYS Office of Children and Family Services. "Search for Child Care."
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/looking/ccfs-search.php>
2. [2] NYS Office of Children and Family Services. "Find Child Care."
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/looking/>
3. [3] NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. "Search for Child Care Services."
<https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/ChildCare/search.action>
4. [4] NYS Office of Children and Family Services. "Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)."
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/ccap/>
5. [5] NYS Office of Children and Family Services. "CCAP Help / Resources."
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/ccap/help.php>
6. [6] NY.gov. "myBenefits." <https://mybenefits.ny.gov/>
7. [7] NYS Office of the Medicaid Inspector General. "File an Allegation."
<https://omig.ny.gov/medicaid-fraud/file-allegation>
8. [8] NYS Committee on Open Government. "Make a FOIL Request."
<https://opengovernment.ny.gov/make-foil-request>
9. [9] NYS Committee on Open Government. "Freedom of Information Law."
<https://opengovernment.ny.gov/freedom-information-law>
10. [10] eCFR. "45 CFR § 98.15 — Assurances and certifications."
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-A/subchapter-A/part-98/subpart-B/section-98.15>
11. [11] Legal Information Institute (Cornell Law School). "45 CFR § 98.15."
<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/45/98.15>

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