



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

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Ohio 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 an Ohio-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

Ohio does not maintain a single public, name-searchable clearinghouse that aggregates every benefit payment or claim across all programs. Records are maintained by administering agencies under state and federal confidentiality rules.

The practical approach is **self-verification**: confirm provider licensing status using official state tools, review official notices/records you are entitled to as a parent/guardian, and use formal dispute and fraud-reporting channels when discrepancies appear.

Section 1 — Licensed / Regulated Child Care Verification (Ohio Child Care Search)

Ohio maintains an official statewide child care search tool that allows the public to verify licensing status and related information for early care and education programs. [1][2]

1.1 Official provider search (public)

Ohio Child Care Search:

<https://childcaresearch.ohio.gov/> [1]

1.2 Ohio.gov entry page (official guidance)

Ohio.gov — Find Child Care:

[https://ohio.gov/residents/resources/\[REDACTED\]](https://ohio.gov/residents/resources/[REDACTED]) [2]

Section 2 — Child Care Subsidy (Publicly Funded Child Care, PFCC) (Ohio)

Ohio's child care subsidy is commonly referred to as **Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC)**. Families are approved based on eligibility rules, and payments may be issued to child care providers on behalf of eligible households. [3][4]

2.1 Official PFCC information (providers)

Ohio JFS — Publicly Funded Child Care (For Providers):

[https://jfs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/jfs/child-care/publicly-\[REDACTED\]/for-providers](https://jfs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/jfs/child-care/publicly-[REDACTED]/for-providers) [3]

2.2 Official PFCC information (families)

Ohio Department of Children and Youth — Child Care Assistance (PFCC):

<https://childrenandyouth.ohio.gov/for-families/early-care-education/child-care-assistance> [4]

2.3 Attendance & payment system reference (PFCC)

Ohio Child Care Time, Attendance and Payment (TAP) information site:

<https://ohiocctap.info/> [5]

2.4 What parents/guardians should review

- **Eligibility/authorization notices** (provider name, approved dates, and any family copayment).
- **Provider identity** using Ohio Child Care Search (Section 1.1). [1]
- **Dates of care/attendance** versus what you believe occurred (retain calendars, messages, sign-in/out evidence, etc.).
- **Any ongoing portal communications** (keep screenshots and copies of notices).

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

Health services billed under Ohio Medicaid generate claims records through program and plan systems. Reviewing claims history or explanation-of-benefits style statements is often the most direct way for families to detect services billed in a parent's or child's name that they do not recognize.

3.1 Reporting suspected Medicaid fraud (Ohio Medicaid guidance)

Ohio Medicaid — Reporting Suspected Medicaid Fraud:

<https://medicaid.ohio.gov/stakeholders-and-partners/helpfullinks/reporting-suspected-medicaid-fraud> [6]

3.2 Ohio Attorney General — Report Medicaid Fraud

Ohio Attorney General — Report Medicaid Fraud:

[https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/Service-Divisions/\[REDACTED\]/Report-Medicaid-Fraud](https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/Service-Divisions/[REDACTED]/Report-Medicaid-Fraud) [7]

3.3 What to check

- Dates of service (were you/your child present?).
- Providers or locations you do not recognize.
- Repeated services that do not match what you were told occurred.

Section 4 — Public Records Requests (Ohio Sunshine Laws / Public Records Act)

Ohio's public records framework is commonly referred to as the state's "Sunshine Laws," including the Public Records Act. Records involving minors or individual benefit/health cases may be restricted by confidentiality rules; however, parents/guardians can request records they are legally entitled to receive and ask for written explanations for denials or redactions.

4.1 Ohio Attorney General — Sunshine Laws overview

Ohio Attorney General — Sunshine Laws:

<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Legal/Sunshine-Laws> [8]

4.2 Ohio Attorney General — Public Records Act (ORC 149.43)

Ohio Attorney General — Public Records Act:

<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Legal/Sunshine-Laws/Public-Records-Act> [9]

4.3 Practical request structure (recommended)

1. Identify yourself as the parent/guardian and list the dependent(s) involved.
2. Specify the program (PFCC, Medicaid, etc.), provider name(s), and date range.
3. Request "records sufficient to show" authorizations, payments, attendance records (if applicable), and/or claims for that period.
4. Ask for a written explanation of any confidentiality limitations, exemptions, and redactions applied.

Section 5 — Reporting Suspected Fraud (Ohio Official Channels)

Preserve documentation first (letters, notices, provider names/addresses, dates, screenshots, attendance records), then report through the most relevant official channel.

5.1 Medicaid provider fraud

- Ohio Medicaid suspected fraud guidance:
<https://medicaid.ohio.gov/stakeholders-and-partners/helpfullinks/reporting-suspected-medicaid-fraud> [6]
- Ohio Attorney General report line:
[https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/Service-Divisions/\[REDACTED\]/Report-Medicaid-Fraud](https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/Service-Divisions/[REDACTED]/Report-Medicaid-Fraud) [7]

5.2 Child care subsidy/PFCC concerns

Use the official PFCC guidance as the authoritative entry points:

<https://childrenandyouth.ohio.gov/for-families/early-care-education/child-care-assistance> [4]

Provider-facing PFCC program reference:

[https://jfs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/jfs/child-care/publicly-\[REDACTED\]/for-providers](https://jfs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/jfs/child-care/publicly-[REDACTED]/for-providers) [3]

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 Ohio Resources

1. **Ohio Child Care Search:** <https://childcaresearch.ohio.gov/> [1]
2. **Ohio.gov Find Child Care:** [https://ohio.gov/residents/resources/\[REDACTED\]](https://ohio.gov/residents/resources/[REDACTED]) [2]
3. **Ohio JFS PFCC (providers):**
[https://jfs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/jfs/child-care/publicly-\[REDACTED\]/for-providers](https://jfs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/jfs/child-care/publicly-[REDACTED]/for-providers) [3]
4. **Ohio DCY Child Care Assistance (PFCC):**
<https://childrenandyouth.ohio.gov/for-families/early-care-education/child-care-assistance> [4]
5. **Ohio TAP info site:** <https://ohiocctap.info/> [5]
6. **Ohio Medicaid suspected fraud reporting:**
<https://medicaid.ohio.gov/stakeholders-and-partners/helpfullinks/reporting-suspected-medicaid-fraud> [6]
7. **Ohio Attorney General Report Medicaid Fraud:**
[https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/Service-Divisions/\[REDACTED\]/Report-Medicaid-Fraud](https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/Service-Divisions/[REDACTED]/Report-Medicaid-Fraud) [7]
8. **Ohio AG Sunshine Laws:** <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Legal/Sunshine-Laws> [8]
9. **Ohio AG Public Records Act:**
<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Legal/Sunshine-Laws/Public-Records-Act> [9]

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

B.1 Ohio Public Records Act (ORC 149.43)

The Ohio Attorney General provides a plain-language overview of Ohio's Public Records Act and public office duties to respond to records requests. [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] Ohio Child Care Search. <https://childcaresearch.ohio.gov/>
2. [2] Ohio.gov. "Find Child Care." [https://ohio.gov/residents/resources/\[REDACTED\]](https://ohio.gov/residents/resources/[REDACTED])
3. [3] Ohio Job and Family Services. "Publicly Funded Child Care (For Providers)."
[https://jfs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/jfs/child-care/publicly-\[REDACTED\]/for-providers](https://jfs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/jfs/child-care/publicly-[REDACTED]/for-providers)
4. [4] Ohio Department of Children and Youth. "Child Care Assistance (PFCC)."
<https://childrenandyouth.ohio.gov/for-families/early-care-education/child-care-assistance>
5. [5] Ohio Child Care TAP Information Site. <https://ohiocctap.info/>
6. [6] Ohio Medicaid. "Reporting Suspected Medicaid Fraud."
<https://medicaid.ohio.gov/stakeholders-and-partners/helpfullinks/reporting-suspected-medicaid-fraud>
7. [7] Ohio Attorney General. "Report Medicaid Fraud."
[https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/Service-Divisions/\[REDACTED\]/Report-Medicaid-Fraud](https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/Service-Divisions/[REDACTED]/Report-Medicaid-Fraud)
8. [8] Ohio Attorney General. "Ohio's Sunshine Laws."
<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Legal/Sunshine-Laws>
9. [9] Ohio Attorney General. "Public Records Act (Revised Code 149.43)."
<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Legal/Sunshine-Laws/Public-Records-Act>

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