



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

Last Updated: 2026-01-01

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Development Document: #34962

Pennsylvania Self-Verification Guide

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

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Date: January 2, 2026

Purpose: This document provides a Pennsylvania-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

Pennsylvania does not maintain a single public, name-searchable clearinghouse aggregating all benefit payments or claims. Records are held by administering agencies under state and federal confidentiality requirements. The recommended approach is **self-verification**: review official records you are legally entitled to access, then escalate concerns through formal dispute or fraud-reporting channels when appropriate.

Section 1 — Licensed Child Care Verification (PA DHS / OCDEL)

Child care licensing and oversight in Pennsylvania are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL).

1.1 Official provider search (public)

Pennsylvania Child Care Search:

<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/Compass.Web/ProviderSearch/Home> [1]

1.2 Licensing and compliance overview

PA DHS — Child Care Services (OCDEL):

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/Pages/Child-Care.aspx> [2]

Section 2 — Child Care Subsidy (Child Care Works) (PA DHS)

Pennsylvania's Child Care Works (CCW) program helps eligible families pay for child care. Payments are issued to approved providers on behalf of eligible households and are commonly administered through local Early Learning Resource Centers (ELRCs).

2.1 Official program information

PA DHS — Child Care Works:

[https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/Pages/\[REDACTED\].aspx](https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/Pages/[REDACTED].aspx) [3]

2.2 Apply / manage benefits

COMPASS (Pennsylvania benefits portal):

<https://www.compass.state.pa.us> [4]

2.3 What parents/guardians should review

- Eligibility and authorization notices
- Approved provider name and authorized dates
- Attendance versus authorized care

Section 3 — Health Coverage Claims (Pennsylvania Medicaid / Medical Assistance)

Health services billed under Pennsylvania Medicaid (Medical Assistance) generate claims records. Reviewing claims history or explanation-of-benefits (EOB) statements is the primary method for detecting services billed in your or your child's name.

3.1 Medical Assistance program information

PA DHS — Medical Assistance:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/Medical-Assistance.aspx> [5]

3.2 Reporting Medicaid fraud

PA Office of Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud Control Section:

<https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/protect-yourself/consumer-advisories/medicaid-fraud/> [6]

Section 4 — Public Records Requests (Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law)

Public access to government records in Pennsylvania is governed by the Right-to-Know Law (65 P.S. §§ 67.101–67.3104). Records involving minors or individual benefit/health cases may be exempt; however, parents and guardians may request records they are legally entitled to receive.

4.1 Official guidance (Office of Open Records)

PA Office of Open Records — How to File a Right-to-Know Request:

<https://www.openrecords.pa.gov/RTKL/HowToFile.cfm> [7]

Section 5 — Reporting Suspected Fraud (Pennsylvania Official Channels)

Preserve documentation (letters, notices, provider names, dates) before reporting.

5.1 Public assistance and Medicaid fraud

- PA Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud: <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/protect-yourself/consumer-advisories/medicaid-fraud/> [6]
- PA DHS — Report Welfare Fraud: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/About-DHS/Pages/Report-Fraud.aspx> [8]

Appendix A — Official Pennsylvania Resources

1. PA Child Care Provider Search — <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/Compass.Web/ProviderSearch/Home>
2. PA DHS Child Care (OCDEL) — <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/Pages/Child-Care.aspx>
3. PA Child Care Works — [https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/Pages/\[REDACTED\].aspx](https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/Pages/[REDACTED].aspx)
4. COMPASS — <https://www.compass.state.pa.us>
5. PA Medical Assistance — <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/Medical-Assistance.aspx>
6. PA Attorney General Medicaid Fraud — <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/protect-yourself/consumer-advisories/medicaid-fraud/>
7. PA Office of Open Records — <https://www.openrecords.pa.gov/RTKL/HowToFile.cfm>
8. PA DHS Report Fraud — <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/About-DHS/Pages/Report-Fraud.aspx>

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Created: 2026-01-01

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