



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

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Colorado 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 Colorado-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

Colorado does not provide a single public, name-searchable clearinghouse that aggregates all benefit payments, child care subsidies, and health claims. Records are maintained by individual agencies and program administrators under state and federal confidentiality rules. The recommended approach is **self-verification**: review official records you are legally entitled to access, confirm provider and program details using official tools, then escalate concerns through official dispute or fraud-reporting channels if warranted.

Section 1 — Licensed / Regulated Child Care Verification (Colorado Department of Early Childhood)

Colorado provides a public search pathway for families to locate and review early childhood programs, including program details and licensing-related information. Start with the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) family portal, then use the Colorado Shines search tool to locate program profiles.

1.1 Official family entry point (CDEC)

CDEC — Find Child Care (family portal and official guidance):

[https://www.coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.com/OEC_Families?lang=en&p=family&s=\[REDACTED\]](https://www.coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.com/OEC_Families?lang=en&p=family&s=[REDACTED]) [1]

1.2 Official provider/program search (Colorado Shines)

Colorado Shines — Find a Program (search tool):

<https://www.coloradoshines.com/search> [2]

Section 2 — Child Care Subsidy / Voucher Program (Colorado Child Care Assistance Program — CCCAP)

Colorado's Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) helps eligible families pay for child care while parents work, attend school, or participate in approved activities. Administration is typically coordinated through county human services. If you suspect CCCAP was used in your name or your child's name, review official notices you received (if any) and request verification through the appropriate county and official state application pathways.

2.1 Official program information (CDEC family page)

CDEC — Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP):

https://www.coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.com/OEC_Families?lang=en&p=Family&s=Colorado-Child-Care-Assistance-Program [3]

2.2 Apply / manage benefits (official online portal)

Colorado PEAK — Apply for and manage State of Colorado benefits:

<https://co.colorado.gov/colorado-peak> [4]

Colorado PEAK — Landing page (apply/manage):

<https://peak.my.site.com/peak/s/peak-landing-page> [5]

2.3 What parents/guardians should review

- Eligibility/authorization notices (approved dates, child identifiers, and any provider information listed).
- Provider identity and public program profile using Colorado Shines search (Section 1.2). [2]
- Dates of care/attendance versus your own records (calendar, messages, receipts, or other documentation you possess).
- Whether assistance appears to continue after withdrawal, provider change, or non-attendance.

Section 3 — Medicaid / Health Claims Verification (Health First Colorado) and Fraud Reporting

Colorado Medicaid is known as Health First Colorado and is administered by the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF). Health services billed under Medicaid generate claims records. If you suspect services were billed in your name or your child's name, request and review claims-related history through your plan/member channels, then report suspected fraud through official HCPF guidance.

3.1 Fraud, waste, and abuse (HCPF)

HCPF — Fraud, Waste and Abuse:

<https://hcpf.colorado.gov/fraud-waste-and-abuse> [6]

3.2 How to report suspected fraud (HCPF)

HCPF — How to Report Suspected Fraud:

<https://hcpf.colorado.gov/how-report-suspected-fraud> [7]

Section 4 — Public Records Requests (Colorado Open Records Act — CORA)

Colorado public records access is governed by the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA), codified at C.R.S. § 24-72-201 to 24-72-206. Records involving minors, individual benefit cases, and protected health information may be restricted; however, parents/guardians can request records they are legally entitled to receive and request written explanations for denials/redactions.

4.1 CORA overview (official state guidance)

Colorado Department of Revenue — Colorado Open Records Act (CORA):
<https://cdor.colorado.gov/cora> [8]

4.2 CORA overview (Colorado Secretary of State)

Colorado Secretary of State — CORA information:
https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/info_center/cora.html [9]

Section 5 — Reporting Suspected Benefit Fraud (Official Channels Only)

If you suspect misuse of benefits or services, preserve documentation first (letters, notices, provider names, dates, and any case identifiers you lawfully possess), then report through official channels. Avoid public accusations. If you are uncertain which program is involved, request written confirmation of what is on file for your household through the responsible agency or county office.

5.1 Medicaid-related reporting (HCPF official)

HCPF — How to Report Suspected Fraud:

<https://hcpf.colorado.gov/how-report-suspected-fraud> [7]

5.2 Child care assistance verification and routing (CDEC official)

CCCAP official overview and application pathways (county-coordinated):

https://www.coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.com/OEC_Families?lang=en&p=Family&s=Colorado-Child-Care-Assistance-Program [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 scope.
- **Identity mismatch:** records referencing a child/dependent you do not recognize.

Appendix A — Official Colorado Resources

1. CDEC Find Child Care — [https://www.coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.com/OEC_Families?lang=en&p=family&s=\[REDACTED\]](https://www.coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.com/OEC_Families?lang=en&p=family&s=[REDACTED]) [1]
2. Colorado Shines Program Search — <https://www.coloradoshines.com/search> [2]
3. CDEC CCCAP — https://www.coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.com/OEC_Families?lang=en&p=Family&s=Colorado-Child-Care-Assistance-Program [3]
4. Colorado PEAK (state portal overview) — <https://co.colorado.gov/colorado-peak> [4]
5. Colorado PEAK (landing/apply/manage) — <https://peak.my.site.com/peak/s/peak-landing-page> [5]
6. HCPF Fraud, Waste and Abuse — <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/fraud-waste-and-abuse> [6]
7. HCPF How to Report Suspected Fraud — <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/how-report-suspected-fraud> [7]
8. Colorado DOR CORA page — <https://cdor.colorado.gov/cora> [8]
9. Colorado SOS CORA page — https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/info_center/cora.html [9]

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