



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

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Missouri 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 Missouri-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 Missouri, there is **no single public “name search” clearinghouse** that aggregates every program's payments or claims.

Records are maintained by the 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 / Regulated Child Care Verification (Missouri DESE)

Missouri's regulated child care oversight and public provider information are published through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Office of Childhood.

1.1 Official “Find Regulated Child Care” entry point

DESE “Find Regulated Child Care Near You”:

<https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care/find-care> [1]

1.2 Official provider search tool (Show Me Child Care / facility search)

Child Care Search (official facility search tool):

<https://healthapps.dhss.mo.gov/childcaresearch/> [2]

Section 2 – Child Care Subsidy (Payments on Behalf of Families) (Missouri DESE)

Missouri's Child Care Subsidy Program assists eligible parents/guardians with payments for child care, and DESE provides official family-facing program information and contact pathways. **[3][4]**

2.1 Official program landing page

DESE "Child Care Subsidy":

<https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care-subsidy> **[3]**

2.2 Official family information page (eligibility + help line)

DESE "Child Care Subsidy Information for Families":

<https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care-subsidy/families> **[4]**

2.3 What parents/guardians should review

- **Authorization/eligibility notices** (provider name, approved dates, and any family copayment).
- **Provider identity** using the official Child Care Search tool (Section 1.2). **[2]**
- **Dates of care/attendance** compared to what you believe occurred.
- **Any provider changes** reflected in notices or portal communications (retain copies).

Section 3 – Health Coverage Claims (MO HealthNet / Medicaid) and Fraud Reporting

Health services billed under Missouri Medicaid (MO HealthNet) generate formal claims records through plan and program systems. These records are the primary source for verifying whether services were billed in your name or your child's name.

3.1 Missouri Medicaid fraud reporting (MMAC / DSS)

Missouri Medicaid Audit & Compliance (MMAC) — Report Fraud:

<https://mmac.mo.gov/fraud/report-fraud/> [5]

3.2 Missouri Attorney General – Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU)

Missouri Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud (how to report; complaint options):

<https://ago.mo.gov/divisions/medicaid-fraud/> [6]

3.3 What to check

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

Section 4 – Public Records Requests (Missouri Sunshine Law, Chapter 610)

Missouri public records access is governed by the Missouri Sunshine Law (Chapter 610, RSMo). Records involving minors and health/benefit cases may be exempt or not publicly releasable; however, you can request records you are legally entitled to as a parent/guardian and request a written explanation of any exemptions applied.

4.1 Official Sunshine Law overview (Missouri Attorney General)

Missouri Attorney General — Sunshine Law:

<https://ago.mo.gov/get-help/programs-services-from-a-z/sunshine-law/> [7]

4.2 Sample request language (official AG page)

Missouri Attorney General — Sunshine Law sample language/forms:

<https://ago.mo.gov/get-help/programs-services-from-a-z/sunshine-law/sample-language-forms/records-request-form/> [8]

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 subsidy, MO HealthNet, 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 or exemptions applied.

Section 5 – Reporting Suspected Fraud (Missouri Official Channels)

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

5.1 MO HealthNet / Medicaid billing fraud

- MMAC Fraud Reporting (hotline/email): <https://mmac.mo.gov/fraud/report-fraud/> [5]
- Missouri Attorney General MFCU: <https://ago.mo.gov/divisions/medicaid-fraud/> [6]

5.2 Child care subsidy concerns

Use the DESE Child Care Subsidy family page as the authoritative entry point for assistance and case-specific guidance:

<https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care-subsidy/families> [4]

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 Missouri Resources

1. **DESE Find Regulated Child Care Near You:** <https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care/find-care> [1]
2. **Child Care Search (official tool):** <https://healthapps.dhss.mo.gov/childcaresearch/> [2]
3. **DESE Child Care Subsidy (program):** <https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care-subsidy> [3]
4. **DESE Subsidy Info for Families:** <https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care-subsidy/families> [4]
5. **MMAC Report Fraud (MO HealthNet):** <https://mmac.mo.gov/fraud/report-fraud/> [5]
6. **MO Attorney General – Medicaid Fraud (MFCU):** <https://ago.mo.gov/divisions/medicaid-fraud/> [6]
7. **MO Attorney General – Sunshine Law:**
<https://ago.mo.gov/get-help/programs-services-from-a-z/sunshine-law/> [7]
8. **MO AG Sunshine Law – Sample request language:**
<https://ago.mo.gov/get-help/programs-services-from-a-z/sunshine-law/sample-language-forms/records-request-form/> [8]

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

B.1 Missouri Sunshine Law (Chapter 610, RSMo)

The Missouri Attorney General provides official overview guidance and request/complaint resources for the Sunshine Law. **[7][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> **[9]**

Short excerpt (confidentiality clause as commonly cited): “policies to govern the use and disclosure of confidential and personally identifiable information ...” **[10]**

References (Citation List)

1. [1] Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. "Find Regulated Child Care Near You." <https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care/find-care>
2. [2] State of Missouri. "Child Care Search (facility search tool)." <https://healthapps.dhss.mo.gov/childcaresearch/>
3. [3] Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. "Child Care Subsidy." <https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care-subsidy>
4. [4] Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. "Child Care Subsidy Information for Families." <https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/child-care-subsidy/families>
5. [5] Missouri Medicaid Audit & Compliance. "Report Fraud." <https://mmac.mo.gov/fraud/report-fraud/>
6. [6] Missouri Attorney General. "Medicaid Fraud." <https://ago.mo.gov/divisions/medicaid-fraud/>
7. [7] Missouri Attorney General. "Sunshine Law." <https://ago.mo.gov/get-help/programs-services-from-a-z/sunshine-law/>
8. [8] Missouri Attorney General. "Records Request Form (sample language)." <https://ago.mo.gov/get-help/programs-services-from-a-z/sunshine-law/sample-language-forms/record-request-form/>
9. [9] 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>
10. [10] Legal Information Institute (Cornell Law School). "45 CFR § 98.15." <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/45/98.15>

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