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

Last Updated: 2026-01-01

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Devolpment Document: #34963

Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island–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

Rhode Island does not provide a single public, name-searchable clearinghouse covering all benefit payments or claims. Records are maintained by administering agencies under state and federal confidentiality rules. The practical approach is **self-verification**: review official records you are legally entitled to access, then escalate concerns through formal dispute or fraud-reporting channels if discrepancies appear.

Section 1 — Licensed Child Care Verification (RI DHS / RISES)

Rhode Island's official search experience for licensed early learning and child care programs is provided through the Rhode Island Start Early System (RISES), connected to Rhode Island DHS child care program pages. :contentReference{index=0}

1.1 Official provider search (public)

RISES Consumer Search (licensed programs):
https://earlylearningprograms.dhs.ri.gov/s/?language=en_US **[1]** :contentReference{index=1}

1.2 State "Find Child Care or Preschool" entry point

State of Rhode Island (kids.ri.gov) — Find a Program:
[https://kids.ri.gov/prenatal-pre-k-resources/[REDACTED]-or-preschool](https://kids.ri.gov/prenatal-pre-k-resources/[REDACTED]-or-preschool) **[2]**
:contentReference{index=2}

Section 2 — Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) (RI DHS)

Rhode Island's "Starting RIght" Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) can subsidize child care costs for eligible families, typically for children under age 13 (with extensions in certain circumstances). :contentReference{index=3}

2.1 Official CCAP overview

RI DHS — Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) & Head Start: https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/child-care/child-care-assistance-program-ccap **[3]** :contentReference{index=4}

2.2 Eligibility and how to apply

RI DHS — CCAP Family Eligibility & How to Apply: https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/child-care/child-care-assistance-program-ccap/ccap-family-eligibility-how **[4]** :contentReference{index=5}

2.3 What parents/guardians should review

- Eligibility and authorization notices (approved dates and provider information).
- Provider identity using RISES (Section 1.1). :contentReference{index=6}
- Dates of care/attendance versus what you believe occurred.

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

Health services billed under Medicaid generate claims records. If you suspect services were billed in your name or your child's name, the fastest path is to request and review claims/EOB-style history through your plan or Medicaid-related member resources, then report any suspected fraud through official channels.

3.1 Reporting Medicaid fraud / patient abuse (RI Attorney General)

Rhode Island Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud & Patient Abuse:
https://riag.ri.gov/about-our-office/divisions-and-units/criminal-division/medicaid-fraud-patient-abuse **[5]**
:contentReference{index=7}

Section 4 — Public Records Requests (Rhode Island APRA)

Rhode Island's Access to Public Records Act (APRA) governs public record access. Requests involving minors or individual benefit/health cases may be restricted, but parents/guardians can request records they are legally entitled to receive and request written explanations for denials.

4.1 RI DHS — APRA (DHS public records request guidance)

RI DHS — Access to Public Records Act (APRA):
https://dhs.ri.gov/public-records [6] :contentReference{index=8}

Section 5 — Reporting Suspected Fraud (Rhode Island Official Channels)

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

5.1 RI DHS — Report Fraud or Misuse

RI DHS — Report Fraud:
https://dhs.ri.gov/general-resources-and-support/report-fraud **[7]** :contentReference{index=9}

5.2 Medicaid fraud / patient abuse (RI AG)

RI Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud & Patient Abuse:
https://riag.ri.gov/about-our-office/divisions-and-units/criminal-division/medicaid-fraud-patient-abuse **[5]** :contentReference{index=10}

Appendix A — Official Rhode Island Resources

1. RISES Consumer Search — https://earlylearningprograms.dhs.ri.gov/s/?language=en_US :contentReference{index=11}
2. State of RI — Find Child Care or Preschool — [https://kids.ri.gov/prenatal-pre-k-resources/[REDACTED]-or-preschool](https://kids.ri.gov/prenatal-pre-k-resources/[REDACTED]-or-preschool) :contentReference{index=12}
3. RI DHS — CCAP & Head Start — https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/child-care/child-care-assistance-program-ccap :contentReference{index=13}
4. RI DHS — CCAP Eligibility/How to Apply — https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/child-care/child-care-assistance-program-ccap/ccap-family-eligibility-how :contentReference{index=14}
5. RI AG — Medicaid Fraud & Patient Abuse — https://riag.ri.gov/about-our-office/divisions-and-units/criminal-division/medicaid-fraud-patient-abuse :contentReference{index=15}
6. RI DHS — APRA / Public Records — https://dhs.ri.gov/public-records :contentReference{index=16}
7. RI DHS — Report Fraud — https://dhs.ri.gov/general-resources-and-support/report-fraud :contentReference{index=17}

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Created: 2026-01-01

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