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

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Washington 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 Washington-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

Washington does not publish a single public, name-searchable clearinghouse that aggregates all benefit payments, child care subsidies, and health claims. Records are maintained by individual agencies and contractors under state and federal confidentiality rules. The recommended approach is **self-verification**: obtain and review official records you are legally entitled to access, document any discrepancies, then escalate concerns through official dispute and fraud-reporting channels if warranted.

This guide is intended for **parents, caregivers, and guardians**. It does not allege wrongdoing by any person or provider. Use only official government resources and official reporting channels.

Section 1 — Licensed / Regulated Child Care Verification (Washington DCYF)

Child care licensing and oversight in Washington are administered by the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). Use the official search tools below to verify whether a provider is licensed/regulated and to review public-facing licensing details where available.

1.1 Official provider search (public)

DCYF — Child Care Check:
[https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/[REDACTED]](https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/[REDACTED]) **[1]**

1.2 Find Child Care (official navigation)

DCYF — Find Child Care:
[https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/[REDACTED]](https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/[REDACTED]) **[2]**

Section 2 — Child Care Subsidy / Voucher Program (Working Connections Child Care)

Washington provides child care payment assistance through the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program administered by DCYF. If you suspect subsidies were used in your name or your child's name, use official portals and contact methods to verify your case status, review notices you received, and request written clarification where appropriate.

2.1 Official program information

DCYF — Working Connections Child Care (WCCC):
https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help/wccc **[3]**

2.2 Apply / manage benefits (Washington Connection)

Washington Connection (apply for multiple state benefits, including child care subsidy pathways as applicable):
https://www.washingtonconnection.org/ **[4]**

2.3 What parents/guardians should review

- Eligibility/authorization notices (approved dates, provider name, and child identifiers).
- Provider identity and license status using DCYF Child Care Check (Section 1.1). **[1]**
- Dates of care/attendance versus your own records (calendar, messages, or documentation you possess).
- Whether assistance appears to continue after withdrawal, provider change, or non-attendance.

Section 3 — Medicaid / Health Claims Verification (Washington Apple Health) and Fraud Reporting

Health services billed under Washington Apple Health (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 official channels available to you, then report suspected fraud through official reporting pathways.

3.1 Washington Health Care Authority (HCA) — Medicaid fraud reporting

HCA — Fraud Prevention (how to report suspected Medicaid fraud):
https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/other-administrative-activities/fraud-prevention **[5]**

3.2 HCA — Medicaid Program Integrity (program context)

HCA — Medicaid Program Integrity:
https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/other-administrative-activities/medicaid-program-integrity **[6]**

3.3 Washington Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud Control Division (MFCU/MFCD)

Washington State Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud:
https://www.atg.wa.gov/medicaid-fraud **[7]**

Section 4 — Public Records Requests (Washington Public Records Act)

Washington public records access is governed by the Washington Public Records Act (PRA), Chapter 42.56 RCW. Records involving minors, individual benefit cases, or protected health information may be exempt or restricted; however, parents/guardians can request records they are legally entitled to receive and request written explanations for denials/redactions.

4.1 Statutory reference (Public Records Act)

Washington Legislature — Chapter 42.56 RCW (Public Records Act): https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=42.56 **[8]**

4.2 Model Rules for PRA compliance (Attorney General Model Rules)

Washington Legislature — Chapter 44-14 WAC (Public Records Act — Model Rules): https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=44-14 **[9]**

4.3 Attorney General open government resources

Washington Attorney General — Public Records and Open Public Meetings: https://www.atg.wa.gov/public-records-and-open-public-meetings **[10]**

4.4 Open Government Resource Manual (official)

Washington Attorney General — Open Government Resource Manual: https://www.atg.wa.gov/open-government-resource-manual **[11]**

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 appropriate agency.

5.1 Public assistance and child care assistance fraud (DSHS Office of Fraud and Accountability)

Washington DSHS — How to report suspected welfare fraud (includes hotline and reporting options): https://www.dshs.wa.gov/faq/how-do-i-report-suspected-welfare-fraud-washington-state **[12]**

5.2 DSHS Office of Fraud and Accountability (overview)

Washington DSHS — Office of Fraud and Accountability: https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ffa/office-fraud-and-accountability **[13]**

5.3 Medicaid-related fraud reporting (HCA + Attorney General MFCD)

- HCA Fraud Prevention (How to report Medicaid fraud): https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/other-administrative-activities/fraud-prevention **[5]**
- Washington Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud: https://www.atg.wa.gov/medicaid-fraud **[7]**

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 Washington Resources

1. DCYF Child Care Check — [https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/[REDACTED]](https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/[REDACTED]) **[1]**
2. DCYF Find Child Care — [https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/[REDACTED]](https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/[REDACTED]) **[2]**
3. DCYF Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) — https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help/wccc **[3]**
4. Washington Connection (apply/manage benefits) — https://www.washingtonconnection.org/ **[4]**
5. HCA Fraud Prevention (Medicaid reporting) — https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/other-administrative-activities/fraud-prevention **[5]**
6. HCA Medicaid Program Integrity — https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/other-administrative-activities/medicaid-program-integrity **[6]**
7. WA Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud (MFCD) — https://www.atg.wa.gov/medicaid-fraud **[7]**
8. WA Legislature — Public Records Act (RCW 42.56) — https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=42.56 **[8]**
9. WA Legislature — PRA Model Rules (WAC 44-14) — https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=44-14 **[9]**
10. WA Attorney General — Public Records & Open Public Meetings — https://www.atg.wa.gov/public-records-and-open-public-meetings **[10]**
11. WA Attorney General — Open Government Resource Manual — https://www.atg.wa.gov/open-government-resource-manual **[11]**
12. DSHS FAQ — Report suspected welfare fraud — https://www.dshs.wa.gov/faq/how-do-i-report-suspected-welfare-fraud-washington-state **[12]**
13. DSHS — Office of Fraud and Accountability — https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ffa/office-fraud-and-accountability **[13]**

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This document is provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Tocsin Data does not make allegations about any specific person, provider, or agency in this document. Verification outcomes depend on program rules, record accuracy, and case-specific facts. If you believe you have identified misuse or fraud, use the official reporting channels listed and/or consult qualified counsel.

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