



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

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California 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 California-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

California 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 contractors under state and federal confidentiality rules. The practical approach is **self-verification**: obtain and review official records you are legally entitled to access, confirm provider and program details using official tools, then escalate concerns through official dispute and fraud-reporting channels if warranted.

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

Section 1 — Licensed / Regulated Child Care Verification (California CDSS Community Care Licensing)

Child care licensing and facility oversight information in California is provided through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD). Public search tools allow parents and guardians to verify licensed facilities and view facility details.

1.1 Official facility search (public)

CDSS CCLD — Care Facility Search:

<https://www.cclد.dss.ca.gov/carefacilitysearch/> [1]

1.2 Official facility search landing page (CDSS)

CDSS — Facility Search Welcome:

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/community-care-licensing/facility-search-welcome> [2]

Section 2 — Child Care Subsidy / Voucher Programs (California CDSS)

California administers multiple subsidized child care and development programs, including CalWORKs child care stages and other subsidized options. If you suspect a subsidy was used in your name or your child's name, begin by reviewing your official notices and approvals (if any), then use the official CDSS program pages below to identify the correct program pathway and request verification through the responsible agency (county welfare office and/or contracted program administrators).

2.1 Subsidized child care programs (official overview)

CDSS — Child Care and Development Programs (Subsidized Programs):

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calworks-child-care/subsidized-programs> [3]

2.2 CalWORKs child care (official overview)

CDSS — CalWORKs Child Care:

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calworks-child-care> [4]

2.3 What parents/guardians should review

- Any approval/authorization notices (approved dates, child identifiers, and provider information).
- Provider identity and licensing status using the official CCLD Care Facility Search (Section 1.1). [1]
- Dates of care/attendance versus your own records (calendar, messages, receipts, or other documentation you possess).
- Whether subsidy activity appears to continue after withdrawal, provider change, or non-attendance.

Section 3 — Medicaid / Health Claims Verification (Medi-Cal) and Fraud Reporting

California Medicaid is Medi-Cal, administered by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Health services billed under Medi-Cal generate claims records. If you suspect services were billed in your name or your child's name, request and review your claims-related history through your managed care plan or DHCS member pathways, then report suspected fraud through official DHCS reporting channels.

3.1 DHCS — Stop Medi-Cal Fraud (official reporting guidance)

DHCS — Stop Medi-Cal Fraud:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/StopMedi-CalFraud.aspx> [5]

3.2 DHCS — Stop Medi-Cal Fraud Complaint Form (official)

DHCS — Complaint Form (includes phone, mail, and online options):

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/StopMedi-CalFraudComplaintForm.aspx> [6]

3.3 DHCS provider/program fraud context (official)

DHCS — Fraud (provider/program integrity context and hotline reference):

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/Fraud.aspx> [7]

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

California public records access is governed by the California Public Records Act (CPRA), codified in the Government Code. Records involving minors, individual benefit cases, and 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 (official California Legislature text)

California Legislative Information — Government Code, Division 7, Chapter 3.5 (CPRA):

https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?article=1.&chapter=3.5.&division=7.&lawCode=GOV&title=1. [8]

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.

5.1 Medi-Cal fraud reporting (DHCS official)

- DHCS Stop Medi-Cal Fraud: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/StopMedi-CalFraud.aspx> [5]
- DHCS Complaint Form: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/StopMedi-CalFraudComplaintForm.aspx> [6]

5.2 Child care subsidy program routing (CDSS official program pages)

Use the CDSS subsidized programs and CalWORKs child care program pages to identify the correct program pathway and contact points:

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calworks-child-care/subsidized-programs> [3]

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calworks-child-care> [4]

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 California Resources

1. CDSS CCLD Care Facility Search — <https://www.cclld.dss.ca.gov/carefacilitysearch/> [1]
2. CDSS Facility Search Welcome — <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/community-care-licensing/facility-search-welcome> [2]
3. CDSS Subsidized Programs — <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calworks-child-care/subsidized-programs> [3]
4. CDSS CalWORKs Child Care — <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calworks-child-care> [4]
5. DHCS Stop Medi-Cal Fraud — <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/StopMedi-CalFraud.aspx> [5]
6. DHCS Stop Medi-Cal Fraud Complaint Form — <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/StopMedi-CalFraudComplaintForm.aspx> [6]
7. DHCS Fraud (program/provider context) — <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/Fraud.aspx> [7]
8. California Legislature CPRA text — https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?article=1.&chapter=3.5.&division=7.&lawCode=GOV&title=1. [8]

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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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