



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

Last Updated: 2026-01-01

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**Development Document: #34985**

# **Florida 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 Florida-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

Florida does not provide a single public, name-searchable clearinghouse that aggregates all benefit payments, child care subsidies, and health care 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 (Florida DCF)**

Child care licensing and oversight in Florida are administered by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). Parents and guardians can verify licensed child care facilities and family child care homes using the official state search tool.

### **1.1 Official provider search (public)**

Florida DCF — Child Care Facility Search:

[https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-care/\[REDACTED\]](https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-care/[REDACTED]) [1]

### **1.2 Child care licensing overview**

Florida DCF — Child Care Regulation:

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-care> [2]

## Section 2 — Child Care Subsidy / Voucher Program (Florida School Readiness)

Florida's primary child care subsidy program is the School Readiness Program, administered locally by Early Learning Coalitions under the oversight of the Florida Department of Education (FDOE). If you suspect a subsidy was used in your name or your child's name, review any official notices you received and request verification through the official program pathways below.

### 2.1 Official program information

Florida DOE — School Readiness Program:

<https://www.floridaearlylearning.com/school-readiness> [3]

### 2.2 Apply / manage benefits (official portal)

Florida Early Learning — Family Portal (School Readiness and VPK):

<https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com/> [4]

### 2.3 What parents/guardians should review

- Eligibility and authorization notices (approved dates, provider name, child identifiers).
- Provider license status using the official DCF Child Care Search (Section 1.1). [1]
- Dates of care/attendance versus your own records.
- Whether subsidy activity appears to continue after withdrawal, provider change, or non-attendance.

## **Section 3 — Medicaid / Health Claims Verification (Florida Medicaid) and Fraud Reporting**

Florida Medicaid is administered by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). 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 or explanation-of-benefits information through your managed care plan or AHCA member pathways, then report suspected fraud through official channels.

### **3.1 AHCA — Medicaid fraud and abuse reporting**

Florida AHCA — Report Medicaid Fraud:

<https://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid-fraud-and-abuse> [5]

### **3.2 Florida Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud Control Unit**

Florida Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud Control Unit:

<https://www.myfloridalegal.com/medicaid-fraud> [6]

## **Section 4 — Public Records Requests (Florida Public Records Law)**

Florida public records access is governed by Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. Records involving minors, benefit cases, and protected health information may be exempt or restricted; however, parents and guardians may request records they are legally entitled to receive and request explanations for denials or redactions.

### **4.1 Florida Attorney General public records guidance**

Florida Attorney General — Open Government / Public Records:

<https://www.myfloridalegal.com/open-government> [7]

### **4.2 Statutory reference (Chapter 119)**

Florida Statutes — Chapter 119 (Public Records):

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=0100-0199/0119/0119.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0100-0199/0119/0119.html) [8]



## **Section 5 — Reporting Suspected Benefit Fraud (Florida)**

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 only. Avoid public accusations.

### **5.1 DCF public assistance fraud reporting**

Florida DCF — Public Assistance Fraud:

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/public-assistance/public-assistance-fraud> [9]

### **5.2 Medicaid-related reporting (AHCA)**

AHCA — Medicaid Fraud and Abuse:

<https://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid-fraud-and-abuse> [5]

## Section 6 — Public “Red Flag” Patterns (For Awareness Only)

The following indicators do not prove misconduct, but may justify additional verification:

- **Date mismatch:** claims or payments on days services were not received.
- **Provider mismatch:** provider listed that the family never used.
- **Duration mismatch:** billing continues after withdrawal or termination.
- **Authorization mismatch:** services exceed authorized scope.
- **Identity mismatch:** records referencing an unfamiliar dependent.

## Appendix A — Official Florida Resources

1. FL DCF Child Care Search — [https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-care/\[REDACTED\]](https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-care/[REDACTED]) [1]
2. FL DCF Child Care Regulation — <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-care> [2]
3. FL School Readiness Program — <https://www.floridaearlylearning.com/school-readiness> [3]
4. FL Early Learning Family Portal — <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com/> [4]
5. AHCA Medicaid Fraud and Abuse — <https://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid-fraud-and-abuse> [5]
6. FL Attorney General MFCU — <https://www.myfloridalegal.com/medicaid-fraud> [6]
7. FL AG Open Government — <https://www.myfloridalegal.com/open-government> [7]
8. FL Public Records Statute (Ch. 119) — [http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=0100-0199/0119/0119.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0100-0199/0119/0119.html) [8]
9. FL DCF Public Assistance Fraud — <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/public-assistance/public-assistance-fraud> [9]

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*End of Document*

Created: 2026-01-01

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