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

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# Georgia Self-Verification Guide

## Detecting Possible Misuse of Benefits and Services in Your Name (Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians)

**Prepared by:** Tocsin Data

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*Purpose: This document provides a Georgia-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

Georgia does not maintain a single public, name-searchable system that aggregates all benefit payments, child care subsidies, and health care claims. Records are held by individual agencies 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, and escalate concerns through formal dispute or fraud-reporting channels if warranted.

# Section 1 — Licensed / Regulated Child Care Verification (Georgia DECAL)

Child care licensing and oversight in Georgia are administered by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). Parents and guardians can verify licensed child care programs using the official state search tools.

## 1.1 Official provider search (public)

Georgia DECAL — Child Care Services Search:
https://families.decal.ga.gov/ **[1]**

## 1.2 Licensing and compliance overview

Georgia DECAL — Child Care Services:
https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/ **[2]**

# Section 2 — Child Care Subsidy / Voucher Program (Georgia CAPS)

Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program provides child care assistance to eligible families. If you suspect CAPS benefits were used in your name or your child's name, review any official notices you received and verify your case status through official CAPS application and case management portals.

## 2.1 Official program information

Georgia DECAL — CAPS Program:
https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/CAPS.aspx **[3]**

## 2.2 Apply / manage benefits (official portal)

Georgia Gateway — Apply for CAPS and manage benefits:
https://gateway.ga.gov/ **[4]**

## 2.3 What parents/guardians should review

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

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

Georgia Medicaid is administered by the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH). 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 official member channels, then report suspected fraud through designated official pathways.

## 3.1 Georgia DCH — Medicaid fraud and abuse reporting

Georgia DCH — Report Medicaid Fraud:
https://dch.georgia.gov/medicaid-fraud-and-abuse **[5]**

## 3.2 Georgia Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

Georgia Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud Control Unit:
https://law.georgia.gov/medicaid-fraud-control-unit **[6]**

# Section 4 — Public Records Requests (Georgia Open Records Act)

Georgia public records access is governed by the Georgia Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et seq.). 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.

## 4.1 Attorney General Open Records guidance

Georgia Attorney General — Open Government / Open Records:
https://law.georgia.gov/open-government **[7]**

## 4.2 Statutory reference

Georgia Code — Open Records Act:
https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2024/title-50/chapter-18/article-4/ **[8]**

# Section 5 — Reporting Suspected Benefit Fraud (Georgia)

If you suspect misuse of benefits or services, preserve documentation first (letters, notices, provider names, dates), then report through official channels only. Avoid public accusations.

## 5.1 Georgia Gateway and DCH fraud reporting

Georgia DCH — Medicaid Fraud and Abuse:
https://dch.georgia.gov/medicaid-fraud-and-abuse **[5]**

## 5.2 Georgia Attorney General — Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

Georgia AG — MFCU:
https://law.georgia.gov/medicaid-fraud-control-unit **[6]**

## 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 Georgia Resources

1. GA DECAL Family Portal / Provider Search — https://families.decal.ga.gov/ **[1]**
2. GA DECAL Child Care Services — https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/ **[2]**
3. GA CAPS Program — https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/CAPS.aspx **[3]**
4. Georgia Gateway — https://gateway.ga.gov/ **[4]**
5. GA DCH Medicaid Fraud and Abuse — https://dch.georgia.gov/medicaid-fraud-and-abuse **[5]**
6. GA Attorney General MFCU — https://law.georgia.gov/medicaid-fraud-control-unit **[6]**
7. GA AG Open Government — https://law.georgia.gov/open-government **[7]**
8. Georgia Open Records Act — https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2024/title-50/chapter-18/article-4/ **[8]**

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