



Summer Camp & Background Screening Information

- **Summer day camps** and **Summer 24-hour camps** are defined in s. 409.175, F.S. **Summer day camps** are recreational, educational and other enrichment programs operated during summer vacations for children who are 5 years of age on or before September 1 and older. **Summer 24-hour camps** are recreational, educational and other enrichment programs operated on a 24-hour basis during summer vacations for children who are 5 years of age on or before September 1 and older, that are not exclusively educational.
- All summer camp personnel must be screened, which includes; owners, operators, employees and volunteers that provide care for children. Volunteers who assist on an occasional basis for less than 10 hours per month do not need to be screened, as long as a person who meets the screening requirement is always present and has the volunteer in his/her sight. All employees and volunteers under the age of 18 must be screened.
- All summer camp personnel must be screened no more than 60 days before they begin employment and must be rescreened annually, unless they continually work in a profession caring for vulnerable populations and are not unemployed for more than a 90 day period, and the Level 2 screening was completed within the last 5 years.
- International counselors must complete a Level 2 background screening upon arrival in Florida. Although it isn't required by law, a background check from their home country should be requested. Most organizations that assist with identifying international counselors do provide a background check.
- The requirements for Level 2 Background Screening are found in Chapter 435, F.S., and are as follows:
 - **Level 2 Background Screening** requires fingerprinting for statewide criminal history checks through FDLE and national criminal history checks through the FBI and may include local law enforcement checks.
 - **Disqualifications** are found in s. 435.04, F.S., and include; anyone who is arrested for and awaiting final disposition of a prohibited offense, regardless of adjudication; anyone who has entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to a prohibited offense; and any juvenile adjudicated delinquent in which the record of committing a prohibited offense has not been sealed or expunged.
- The Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse, created due to changes in law during the 2012 legislative session, is a single data source for background screening results of persons required to be screened for employment. The Clearinghouse allows the results of criminal history checks to be shared among specified state agencies. Screening for summer camp personnel must be processed via the Clearinghouse. To establish a provider account in the Clearinghouse the program must already have an ORI/OCA number. To request a provider account in the Clearinghouse please visit the following link: <https://apps.ahca.myflorida.com/SingleSignOnPortal/Login.aspx>
- Fingerprints must be obtained using LiveScan technology. A listing of LiveScan vendors is available via the Clearinghouse and also on our website: www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/backgroundscreening/maplist.asp
- The results from the background screening and the *Affidavit of Good Moral Character* should be maintained in each personnel file. A copy of the Affidavit of Good Moral Character may be obtained from the following link: <http://ccrain.fl-dcf.org/documents/6/78.pdf#page=1>
- The Department has the authority to ensure compliance with background screening. Currently, summer camps are only monitored when a complaint is received relating to noncompliance with background screening. Summer Camps are not licensed by the Department and no additional training of employees is required.