



## BRIGHT FROM THE START

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning  
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**Nathan Deal**  
GOVERNOR

**Amy M. Jacobs**  
COMMISSIONER

March 15, 2017

Dear Georgia Child Care Provider,

Currently, DECAL issues a satisfactory or unsatisfactory determination letter based only on an individual's national, fingerprint-based background check.

Regulations will soon require that all people who work in child care facilities receive a satisfactory determination based on a **comprehensive** background check that includes a check of the following:

- National fingerprint-based criminal history;
- Georgia child abuse and neglect registry;
- National sex offender registry;
- Out of state criminal history for individuals who have resided outside of Georgia in the past five years; and
- Out of state child abuse and neglect registry for individuals who have resided outside of Georgia in the past five years.

Important dates as DECAL phases in this requirement:

- **Effective immediately**, DECAL will perform **comprehensive** background checks for all consenting records check applicants who have lived only in Georgia for the past five years.
- **Beginning July 1, 2017**, DECAL will perform **comprehensive** background checks for all consenting records check applicants who have lived outside of Georgia within the past five years.
- **Beginning October 1, 2017**, DECAL will require that all employees working in the child care industry with a current, valid fingerprint-based satisfactory background check grant consent for DECAL to run the **comprehensive** background check.
- **By October 1, 2018**, everyone in the Georgia child care industry must have a satisfactory determination based on a **comprehensive** background check.

DECAL will notify you by e-mail when a new **comprehensive** determination letter is issued and when consent updates are required of your staff.

Sincerely,

Kristie Lewis  
Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services