

ISSUE BRIEF

2009



HB 2187: Fingerprinting Foster Care Applicants

Overview of the issue

The Oregon Youth Authority's foster care program requires background checks of foster care provider applicants. OYA's authority to process fingerprints of prospective foster parents and members of their households is unclear. HB 2187 provides specificity.

Background checks of foster families

OYA's foster care program recruits and certifies providers to care for youth on probation or parole.

To ensure that youth offenders receive services in a safe, respectful, rehabilitative, and positive atmosphere, OYA has developed a thorough certification process

Foster parents role model appropriate behaviors and hold youth offenders accountable for their behaviors.

Background investigations of prospective foster families and members of their households allow OYA to assess the willingness, abilities, and suitability of applicants to provide such foster care services.

The importance of fingerprints

Using fingerprints, OYA requests state or nationwide criminal records checks through the FBI. Statute (ORS 420.A.021) specifically allows OYA to require fingerprints of

prospective employees, contractors, vendors and volunteers.

OYA wants to formally extend that authority to foster care providers and members of their households. ◀



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