

Credit Reporting for Youth

Did you know?



The Indiana Department of Child Services will conduct credit checks for CHINS and JD/JS youth ages 14 through 17 who are in an out-of-home placement. Youth will receive a credit report from each of the three credit reporting agencies each year until the youth is discharged from care. The youth will receive assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the credit report. DCS will utilize the electronic batch report process. Reports will be processed monthly, which will capture all youth during their birthday month and the month of the youth's initial removal.

Field Responsibilities

- Provide vital documentation to the credit reporting unit in a timely manner (when requested)
- Stay in communication with the credit reporting unit when a youth is pulled from your caseload
- Ensure any discrepancies found on the credit report are cleared and noted in MaGIK, especially before requesting case closure
- Review credit report results with the youth

Please direct any inquires to:

DCSCreditCheckQuestionsdcs.in.gov



FAQs



Why is the Department of Child Services conducting credit reporting checks for youth in out-of-home care?

All states are required by federal law to obtain an annual credit report for foster youth, ages 14 and older, under their care and supervision. Foster youth should receive a copy of consumer reports each year until the youth is discharged and receives assistance in interpreting and resolving inaccuracies in the report.

Who are the credit reporting agencies? What do they do?

Credit reporting agencies are Equifax, Transunion and Experian. They check a youth's credit history and analyze if a youth has any credit.

What is identity theft? How do we fix it?

A situation where a person uses someone else's information to obtain credit cards in another person's name without their permission. We work with the credit reporting agencies to resolve the issue and clear the credit report of any inaccuracies.

Who is on the credit reporting team?

Two individuals and credit reporting agencies.

What does the credit reporting team do?

The team examines monthly credit reports. A youth's report is selected by the month of removal or DOB. (Some youth will have two checks.) They also check reports for discrepancies/identity theft and clear any discrepancies.

What is a discrepancy? How do we fix the discrepancy?

A discrepancy is an error in a youth's credit history or showing a credit history. The credit reporting team clears discrepancies by sending necessary documentation to the reporting agency to inform there should be no history for any of our youth under the age of 18. Clearing this error makes for an easier transition into adult hood for our youth.

Why is credit important to youth?

It affects youth obtaining insurance, applying for loans, moving into apartments, credit cards, etc.