

ISSUE I

READ THE REGS...

In June of 2022 the OEC posted a memo that highlights some of the changes to youth camp regulations in CT. You can find the link to this memo at the bottom of this article.

Ensuring our camp is a safe space for our campers is always top of your mind as a Camp Director. Today I'm going to highlight two of the changes in the regulations that will help us ensure that the folks we hire will continue to do just this.

Background Checks

Many of us have always done background checks on our staff but believe it or not before this change in regulation it was not mandated by the State. The requirement of the type of background check is very specific, and it has to be done through the OEC's website called BCIS – Background Check Information System. Staff's information gets checked in several registries to look for:

- Criminal convictions for specific disqualifying crimes ([learn more about disqualifying crimes](#))
- Any listing in the Child Abuse or Neglect Registry
- Any listing on state or national sex offender registries

As youth camps you have the choice to either have your staff get fingerprinted or not. If you do not go the fingerprint route, you have to check the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch website (<https://www.jud2.ct.gov/crdockets/SearchByDefDisp.aspx>) and keep a record of those results. If you opt for fingerprints, you can do it via the State Police or the United Way. At this point in time the OEC will cover the cost of the United Way fingerprint service.

If you haven't started yet, I urge you to look into it. Although the results of this regulation will improve all camps, it is a very time-consuming process, that will include you having to invite each of your staff to create an account and then some back and forth before it is all complete. In addition, if any of your staff list addresses outside of CT in the past 5 years they must sign an additional form that the OEC will email you, and this needs to be notarized.

To learn more about BCIS there is lots of useful information here: <https://www.ctoec.org/background-checks/>. Jill Marini who is the Special Project Manager – Legal Division for the OEC has been extremely helpful to myself and CCA as we have worked through this.

Employment Verification

This requires youth camp directors to take reasonable steps to verify the past five years of child care employment in the U.S. of each prospective employee who is 18 years of age or older and to maintain documentation of such efforts on file at the camp. Such verification shall include at a minimum the prospective employees' job title, description of duties, confirmation for employment dates and whether such previous employer would recommend employment.

Check out the link to see the full list of changes to the youth camp regulations: <https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Memo-and-Notice-of-New-Youth-Camp-Regs.pdf>

If you haven't looked at the updated Statutes and Regulations for Youth Camps you can always **READ THE REGS** right here: <https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Youth-Camp-Statutes-and-Regulations-2022.pdf>