



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health &  
Developmental Disabilities

Kevin Tanner, Commissioner

**DBHDD**

Division of Strategy, Technology, & Performance

**To:** ARMHP, CLAs, DATEPs, NTPs Licensure Candidates and Licensees

**From:** DBHDD

**Re:** Background Check Requirements

Effective January 1, 2026, The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities became responsible for licensing Community Living Arrangements (CLA), Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Programs (DATEP), Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTP), and Adult Residential Mental Health Programs (ARMHP) through HB584. Part of this responsibility includes determining eligibility through fingerprint-based background checks. HB1097 was recently signed into law and goes into effect July 1, 2026. This law outlines DBHDD's authority to conduct background checks, including for licensed facilities. HB 584 covers background checks related to NTPs. For more information on the licensure transition from DCH to DBHDD and background check requirements specific to the license type held or applied for, please follow [this link to DBHDD's Licensure resource page](#).

**Important to know:**

- For those who previously submitted background check applications through DCH via their GCHEXs system, that process ended December 31, 2025. Background checks conducted through DCH after December 31, 2025, are not valid for licensure.
- All background checks required by HB1097 and the specific licensing rules relevant to your facility type must be submitted using DBHDD's CheckPT system.

- If you are already a licensed facility with hired staff, your hired staff do not have to submit to a background check via CheckPT except as required by the specific Rules and Regulations for your program. If staff leave their position and later return to employment, a new background check must be conducted in CheckPT.
- Idemia, the GBI chosen fingerprint vendor, is designed to allow facilities to pay for fingerprint background checks for their applicants. The facility pay capability requires several steps with Idemia and additional input from you. In the meantime, applicants can still be fingerprinted if they pay the fee themselves. You are welcome to reimburse them or have them bear the cost. The fee is set by the GBI.

**Action steps to take:**

- Establish a CheckPT account for fingerprinting. To do so, please complete and submit the [survey at this link](#). Doing this now will help hiring be smoother when you need it.
- Once we receive the completed survey, our team will work to finalize your account. Please wait for us to provide you with additional information as this set up may take a few weeks.
- Once you've been added to the system, we will send you a link to the CheckPT user guides along with additional information you will need to know.

If you have questions about this communication or after submitting your survey, please reach out to [support@dbhddpims.zendesk.com](mailto:support@dbhddpims.zendesk.com).