



## Alaska Background Check Program Newsletter

# The BCU

The Background Check unit announces the successful completion of the Background Check Pilot Program! The Pilot Program, granted by the Centers for Medicaid/Medicare Services, gave Alaska a big step forward in creating more consistent and defined statutes and regulations and promoting the health, safety and welfare of Alaska's vulnerable adults and children. Since the Background Check Unit started processing of background checks on March 31, 2006, it has processed over 25,000 applications for background checks and identified 515 individuals with barring conditions.

Though the Pilot Program ended on September 30, 2007, the Background Check Unit will continue its contribution to safeguarding Alaska's vulnerable populations. The termination of the Pilot Program will not cause any current procedures to change. Please continue to submit required background check applications to the Background Check Unit. If you have any questions on how the termination of the pilot program may affect your individual program, please contact your state oversight agency.

# BCU

*Reminder!*

*If you are filling out a fingerprint card, the FBI requires that the cards be filled out in black ink only.*

# Reduced Fees

We are pleased to announce that there has been a reduction in the fees charged for national criminal history background checks, effective October 1, 2007. This reduction reflects changes in the rate which the Federal Bureau of Investigation charges the Criminal Records Bureau of the Alaska Department of Public Safety and represents a savings for our clients. The fee for a national fingerprint-based background was \$24.00. On October 1, the fee was reduced to \$19.25. This means a set of fingerprint cards submitted to BCU for state and national fingerprint checks cost \$54.25 instead of \$59.00.

*Reminder!*

### Special point of interest:

As a reminder to all the facilities, the BCU has updated the Release of Information form (Jan 07). Please discontinue using older forms.

# Questions?

How long is a background check good for?

All background checks are valid for six (6) years from the date of the final clearance letter as long as the individual continues to be associated with the same entity. Any break in association or change of association to another entity will require verification of a valid clearance by the BCU. Any break of association of 100 days or more will require a complete, new fingerprint based background check.

We're on the Web! <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/CL/bgcheck/>

For more information, please contact us at [bcu@health.state.ak.us](mailto:bcu@health.state.ak.us)

Or call (907) 334-4475, or fax (907) 269-3488

Or call intra-state toll free (888) 362-4228 fax (888) 364-3488

