



# Cincy Senior Corner



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Your Free Monthly Publication

"In-Home Care Specialists"

## BACKGROUND CHECKS - Your Safety

It is an Ohio State Law that any paid employee of an agency that goes into a home in Ohio to care for the elderly must be fingerprinted for a BCII and/or FBI background report. An agency in this case may be just one person. The entire law can be viewed at the Ohio Department of Health website. The following link is provided so that you can read a section of this law for yourself.

[http://www.odh.ohio.gov/ASSETS/C481AE17FA8E4CD49D7D51F3A8E028BD/Fr60\\_04.PDF](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/ASSETS/C481AE17FA8E4CD49D7D51F3A8E028BD/Fr60_04.PDF)

The law states that if a person lived in Ohio for all of the past 5 years, only a BCII check is needed. If they lived outside of Ohio during any part of the past 5 years a BCII and FBI check is needed. As a recipient of services you are not allowed to see the actual report unless you are the person's employer.

**Beware:** Every agency brochure that I have seen reads that the agency checks employee references and backgrounds. "Background Checks" does not mean they are following the law. The internet can be used to provide a quick and cheap background check without fingerprinting. Just like everywhere else, you get what you pay for and, regarding a background check, it is not sufficient or legal.

There are 2 steps to a legal BCII/FBI check.

1. The individual must be fingerprinted before starting "Conditional Employment".
2. The report must be received within 30 days and not contain any guilty pleas to listed offenses.

Please note: Even if the agency is following the law, an individual is allowed in your home for 30 days while the agency is awaiting the background report. Does this seem safe to you? It doesn't to us.

### Our Advice:

1. Ask any agency that you are working with if every employee has been fingerprinted and a report received from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations per state law.
2. If you care about your or your loved one's safety, pick an agency that waits for the report before sending an employee into your home.

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A Caring Choice provides In-Home Care Services to enable Cincinnati's elderly to safely remain in their homes. Services are personalized, affordable, available 7 days per week - 24 hours per day and include: cooking, cleaning, laundry, transportation, personal hygiene assistance, companionship and medication reminders.

**A Caring Choice, Inc. - 2010 Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber "Small Business of the Year" Runner Up**

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