**Disclaimer/Release**

**Mandated Fingerprint-based Background Checks**

**For**

**Prospective Foster and Adoptive Parents**

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2006, the Federal Government passed the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, which mandates that states have procedures for conducting fingerprint-based background checks of the National Crime Information Database (NCID) for all prospective foster and adoptive parents (Section 471(a)(20)(A) of the Act as amended).

The background checks will include criminal history information on file with the Maine Criminal Justice Information System and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will use the State and Federal criminal history record information for the purpose of screening prospective foster and adoptive parents. The results may not be released to another party except as required under Maine Revised Statutes Title 22, section 4011 (Mandated Reporting for Suspected Abuse or Neglect). See Maine Revised Statutes Title 16, section 616.

An individual has the right to access or review his or her State of Maine and Federal record response, as provided in Maine law at Title 16, Section 620 of the Maine Revised Statutes, and in federal law in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 28 Sections 16.23 and 16.33. These laws are available on the internet or by calling the Maine State Bureau of Identification or the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library. For more information on challenging the results of the information contained in the report, you may also contact the State Bureau of Identification at 624-7240.

I understand that any criminal record information obtained through the fingerprint-based background investigation process will be used consistently with the guidelines outlined above, and that I have the right to review and appeal the record response if I disagree with the information or claim that the record does not belong to me at all. I agree to have my fingerprints taken by a qualified agent and to participate in the fingerprint-based criminal background investigation.

**Signature:**  **Date:**

**Printed Name:**  **Date of Birth:**

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