



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Refugee Resettlement | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr

FIELD GUIDANCE – March 31, 2021

RE: ORR Field Guidance #11, Temporary Waivers of Background Check Requirements for Category 2 Adult Household Members and Adult Caregivers

GUIDANCE

Effective immediately, background check requirements (as well as requirements for obtaining identification) for adult household members and alternate adult caregivers identified in a sponsor care plan are not required as a condition of release for any Category 2 case, unless:

- the child is especially vulnerable;
- the child is subject to a mandatory TVPRA home study; or
- there are red flags present in the case, including red flags relating to abuse or neglect.

If a child falls under one of the excluded cases listed above, please continue to perform background checks according to ORR Policy Guide, section 2.5.1.

ORR continues to require that sponsors identify adults in the household and an alternate adult caregiver as part of the application and assessment process.

Waivers of background check requirements for this group of cases will be reevaluated within 60 days.

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Case managers update the *Release Request* to note which Category 2 cases are eligible for the exemption.
- (2) Case managers continue to check adult household members or adult caregiver names in the ORR Database that are reported in the *Family Reunification Application* and/or during the sponsor assessment to determine whether those individuals sponsored, or had previously attempted to sponsor, an unaccompanied child.

If you have any questions regarding this waiver, please contact your Federal Field Specialist.