

All families in the Emergency Assistance (EA) Family Shelter Program must get Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) Checks.

What is a CORI check?

A CORI check is a background check. It looks to see if you have a record of criminal activity in Massachusetts.

Why do families need to get CORI checks?

We want EA Family Shelter to be safe for families. A CORI Check keeps families in shelter safe.

Who must get a CORI check?

All family members 18 years or older must get a CORI check. This applies to the families who are:

- applying to EA Family Shelter
- on the waitlist for EA Family Shelter
- currently in EA Family Shelter

What do I need to get a CORI check?

To sign the CORI Acknowledgment Form, you must give:

- Your name, date of birth, and the last 6 digits of your Social Security Number (**if available**)
- Identity verification by your provider, HLC staff, or notary public by showing a photograph ID (more info on back)
- Signature and date on the form

What happens if I refuse to or cannot get a CORI Check?

EOHLC will follow the protocol if you had a serious crime on your record. (See back for more information). Also, under the Uniform Shelter Rules, not signing the CORI Acknowledgement Form will warrant termination.

Learn more about CORI Checks at www.mass.gov/ApplyforEA or using this QR Code:



What can I use as identification for the CORI check?

Identity is verified with a form of government-issued identification. This includes, for example:

- A passport
- A US driver's license
- A US identification card with a photograph
- A US permanent residency card
- A US military identification card
- Native American Tribal documents

If you do not have any of the ID forms listed above, EOHLC will review on a case-by-case basis and may accept your:

- birth certificate
- social security card
- foreign identification card
- foreign driver's license with a photograph

If you only have an expired form of identification and no birth certificate or social security card, EOHLC will review on a case-by-case basis to determine if it may be accepted.

What counts as a serious crime?

A Serious Crime could be one of the following convictions *or* pending charges:

- Murder;
- Felony child abuse or neglect;
- Misdemeanors involving violence against children;
- Felony assault or battery;
- Felonies involving spousal abuse or against children;
- Felonies involving rape or sexual assault;
- Kidnapping;
- Arson;
- Felony drug offenses (within last three years);
- Felony sex offense and human trafficking; and
- Any offenses involving firearms, ammunition, or dangerous weapons.

What happens if I have a serious crime on my record?

If you refuse to sign a CORI Acknowledgment form or your CORI includes a Serious Crime, the following may happen:

- Your family may be diverted from EA Family shelter
- Your family's placement options into EA family shelter may be restricted
- Your family may be separated to keep the most amount of family members in shelter

EOHLC will provide the following:

- CORI notice
- A copy of the EOHLC Criminal Offender Record Information Policy for the Emergency Assistance Family Shelter Program;
- A copy of the CORI; and
- Information Concerning the Process in Correcting a Criminal Record from the DJCIS.

