



Do You Know Who Is Watching Your Baby?

September is Baby Safety Awareness Month

Omaha, NE. – September has been designated Baby Safety Month each year with the intention of educating parents and caregivers on safeguarding against hidden hazards in the home. Some of these hazards include loose change on the coffee table, magnets on a refrigerator, and hot mugs. While these are important reminders for the safety of all infants and toddlers, Project Harmony would like to remind new and expecting parents of the importance in thorough background screenings for all childcare providers, including in-home care providers and nannies.

Thorough background checks are often overlooked, or taken for granted. Parents expect their children to be safe in child care. Child safety is listed as the top indicator that parents look for when choosing a child care provider. But while a safe facility and any safety training and education completed are important, a background check can verify that the person watching your child is trustworthy.

A background screening is more than just checking a resume or contacting a list of references. A good background check will:

- Verify name, current address and social security number
- Search criminal records using the person's name, aliases or other names in the past, in addition to the maiden name of female applicants.
- Review the person's driving record.
- Check court records.
- Check national sex offender records.
- Confirm college or other educational degrees

Federal law requires that all states have policies in place to protect the health and safety of children in child care programs. Parents should ask if background checks are utilized for all daycare providers/staff (including the director, cooks, volunteers, van drivers, custodians, etc.) and, if so, what type of background check is conducted and how often.

If hiring a personal nanny and/or babysitter, don't be afraid to ask for a background check. Any employer would ask, and expect, the same when considering an applicant for hire. There are several background check services to choose from, but [eNannySource](#) has been recognized by [Business News Daily](#) as the best background check service for household employees based on service and affordability. Packages range from \$19 to \$89. Reports are provided as a PDF document and are easy to read as well as understand.

“Keep in mind, having a clean background doesn’t prevent something bad from happening,” says Project Harmony Executive Director Gene Klein. “It does, however, help to lessen the risk of a known criminal having close contact with your child.”

To learn more about background check regulations in your area, visit ChildCareAware.org.

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ABOUT PROJECT HARMONY

Project Harmony is a nonprofit, community-based organization in Omaha, Nebraska, that has served more than 32,000 children during the past 21 years by providing a child friendly environment in which specially-trained professionals work together to assess, investigate, and resolve child abuse cases. In a nationally unique model, Project Harmony has one centralized location that co-houses with Omaha Police Department Child Victim/Sexual Assault Unit, Nebraska Health & Human Services/Child Protection Service Initial Assessment and Child Abuse Hotline, Lutheran Family Services and Child Saving Institute. Project Harmony exists to protect and support children, collaborate with professionals and engage the community to end child abuse and neglect.