February 17, 2014

Q: When a resident of an LTC facility transfers to another LTC facility, do they need to have another resident background check done? If the original facility conducted a resident background check, why would another resident background check have to be done by the receiving or new LTC facility?

A: In checking with the Illinois Department of Public Health Identified Offender Program (where the resident background checks are processed), they stated that the resident MUST restart the resident background check process with each facility change. The reasoning given was that “this is to guarantee an added safety measure and ensure any delayed reporting by municipalities have been reported to the Illinois State Police.” It is important to note that the employee and resident background checks are two separate processes and handled in two different Offices within IDPH. The employee background check is done within the Office of Health Care regulation and the resident background check is done within the Office of Patient Safety and Quality. This is done intentionally because there are some functions of the resident background check process that would create certain conflicts for the Office of Health Care Regulation regulatory program.