

Long-Term Care Regulatory Provider Letter

Number: PL 2026-10 Revised

Title: LTCR Provider Responsibilities for the Search Engine for Multi-Agency Reportable Conduct (SEMARC)

Provider Types: Assisted Living Facilities (ALF), Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS), DAHS-Individualized Skills and Socialization (DAHS-ISS), Home and Community-Based Services (HCS), Home and Community Support Services Agencies (HCSSA), Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability or Related Conditions (ICF/IID), Nursing Facilities (NF), Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers (PPECC) and Texas Home Living (TxHmL)

Occupational License Types and Other: Medication Aide (MA) Schools and Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Programs (NATCEPs)

Date Issued: October 2, 2026

1.0 Subject and Purpose

This letter has been revised to extend the hold-harmless period through January 6, 2027, and to include Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

The purpose of this letter is to inform providers of the implementation of Senate Bill 1849, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023. The bill created Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 810, Interagency Reportable Conduct Search Engine. The interagency search engine is formally named the Search Engine for Multi-Agency Reportable Conduct (SEMARC). SEMARC provides a common platform for authorized users to search information across multiple agencies for individuals with reportable conduct.

SEMARC results are used to determine an individual's eligibility for employment, volunteer positions, certifications, contracts, or licensure with entities regulated or licensed by participating state agencies.

SEMARC results include information from the following sources:

- **HHSC's Employee Misconduct Registry (EMR)** includes individuals who are not eligible for hire in long-term care settings regulated by HHSC as a result of reportable conduct.
- **Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) - DFPS' Information Management Protecting Adults and Children in Texas (IMPACT)** case management system, which contains confirmed cases of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation in Texas.
- **Texas Education Agency (TEA) - TEA's Do Not Hire Registry** includes individuals who are not eligible for hire in Texas public schools due to findings of misconduct, including inappropriate relationships with students or other serious violations.
- **Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) - TJJD's Registry** includes individuals who have had their certification revoked or been found ineligible to be certified to work or provide services in juvenile justice facilities or programs for engaging in misconduct, including but not limited to abuse, neglect, or exploitation of juveniles.

Historically, the Texas Administrative Code has required providers to search the EMR to verify a person's employability status. The requirement to search EMR will be replaced with the requirement to search SEMARC.

Rule amendments are in process for each Long-term Care Regulation (LTCR) program and will reflect the new SEMARC requirements.

2.0 Policy Details & Provider Responsibilities

ALF, DAHS, DAHS-ISS, HCSSA, Licensed ICF/IID Facilities, NFs, PPECCs, Medication Aide Schools and Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program - These providers will be required to use SEMARC, in addition to the Nurse Aide Registry (NAR), to determine a person's employability beginning August 3, 2026. Providers will access SEMARC through the [Texas Unified Licensure Information Portal](#) (TULIP).

The hold-harmless period has been in effect since **August 3, 2026, and the end date has been extended to January 6, 2027.**

HHSC will not survey for compliance for SEMARC requirements until **January 7, 2027**. This will allow time for providers to be trained and update business processes. As a reminder, providers must continue to comply with all existing rules and regulations.

Unlicensed ICF/IID Facilities (State Supported Living Centers) –

These providers will be required to use SEMARC, in addition to the NAR, to determine a person's employability status beginning August 3, 2026.

Providers will access SEMARC through [IAMOnline](#).

The hold-harmless period has been in effect since **August 3, 2026, and the end date has been extended to January 6, 2027.**

HHSC will not survey for compliance for SEMARC requirements until **January 7, 2027**. This will allow time for providers to be trained and update business processes. As a reminder, providers must continue to comply with all existing rules and regulations.

HCS and TxHmL – These providers will have access to SEMARC through TULIP in early 2027. Until then these providers will continue to conduct EMR searches using existing processes. HCS and TxHmL providers will receive notification once SEMARC is available to them.

2.1 Logging into SEMARC through TULIP

You will log into SEMARC by clicking the "SEMARC" option under the "Other Actions" tab in [TULIP](#). You will use your TULIP login information for SEMARC.

If you do not see the "SEMARC" option under the "Other Actions" tab in TULIP it means that you have not yet been granted access to SEMARC. Contact your facility security authority to request access to SEMARC.

2.2 Helpdesk Information and Troubleshooting Examples

A link to the SEMARC User Guide can be found on the SEMARC landing page under the "Help" tab. You will need to be logged in to SEMARC through TULIP to access the landing page. If you do not find the answer to your question or issue in the user guide, you can contact the TULIP helpdesk or SEMARC helpdesk.

TULIP Helpdesk - (512) 438-2584

SEMARC Helpdesk - (877) 798-1077

TULIP Service Desk Scope of Coverage:

- Access and permissions management
- Incident reporting and troubleshooting
- Scheduled maintenance and updates
- SEMARC Access Issues in TULIP

- Technical solutions for users
- TULIP software application defects

SEMARC Service Desk Scope of Coverage:

- Data loading or display issues
- Incorrect or missing data
- Search or reporting issues
- Upload or submission failures
- Workflow or processing issues

Participating agencies will direct non-agency users, such as school district staff, HHSC long-term care providers, contractors, or juvenile probation department staff, to contact their associated agency for additional information or assistance needed to make decisions regarding employment, certification, contracting, or volunteering.

If the individual being searched has questions or concerns about the search outcome that the agency receiving the results cannot address, the individual should be directed to contact the agency that provided the results.

TOPIC	EMAIL
Long-Term Care Facilities Only: Questions involving the Texas Administrative Code for EMR/SEMARC requirements, questions providers may have about whether they have to check SEMARC annually, etc.	LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov
Long-Term Care Facilities Only: If the results return a different name, spelling or SSN that do not provide a clear answer about the individual's employability	SEMARC-EMR@hhs.texas.gov
Long-Term Care Facilities Only: For questions that come in from unlicensed staff of HHS-regulated facilities.	credential@hhs.texas.gov

HHSC may provide adverse action letters and final orders placing individuals on the EMR, if available, to non-participating agencies, providers, or the public. Information made confidential by statute may not be provided.	openrecordsrequest@hhs.texas.gov
Questions about Health Care Regulation EMR results	SEMARC-EMR@hhs.texas.gov
Questions about TEA results	TEA Help Desk
Questions about DFPS results	semarc@dfps.texas.gov
Questions about TJJD results	semarcsupport@tjjd.texas.gov

3.0 Background/History

Senate Bill 1849, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, created Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 810, Interagency Reportable Conduct Search Engine.

4.0 Contact Information

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Policy and Rules Section by email at LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov or call (512) 438-3161.

Nurse Aide Registry (NAR) & Search Engine for Multi-Agency Reportable Conduct (SEMARC) FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
1. Is the EMR going away, being replaced by SEMARC, or being combined with the NAR in one SEMARC report?	No. The Employee Misconduct Registry (EMR) is not going away. HHSC will continue to manage it, but providers will now access the information through SEMARC. SEMARC displays EMR results and reportable conduct results from participating state agencies. The Nurse Aide Registry (NAR) is not combined into SEMARC and must still be searched separately in TULIP.
2. Do providers need TULIP to search SEMARC, and how do they request SEMARC access?	Most providers need access to TULIP to access SEMARC. State Supported Living Center (SSLC) staff will access SEMARC through IAMONLINE. Beginning August 3, 2026, providers with TULIP access may request SEMARC access in TULIP by selecting "Other Actions," then "Request Access to SEMARC (For Hiring Managers Only)." The business entity's Security Authorities review the request, and the user receives an email when it is processed. SSLC hiring managers should email LTCRJointTraining@hhs.texas.gov for the IAMONLINE access handout.



3. When do providers have to begin searching SEMARC?	Programs with access must begin searching SEMARC on August 3, 2026. Home and Community-Based Services (HCS) and Texas Home Living (TxHmL) providers will not have TULIP access until Spring 2027, anticipated March 2027, and are exempt from SEMARC until access is available. Until then, they must continue the current EMR/NAR employability status check process.
4. Are providers required to run background checks, NAR, LEIE/OIG, CANRS, or other checks in addition to SEMARC?	Yes. SEMARC does not replace criminal background checks, DPS/DFPS CBC checks, NAR, LEIE/OIG, USLEIE, CANRS, or any other required checks. Providers must continue following all applicable requirements.
5. Can someone be hired if SEMARC, results are pending or not immediately available?	If a provider has submitted the required SEMARC check but the results are not immediately available or are pending, a provider can begin the hiring and orientation process as long as the person does not have access to individuals being served by the provider. For example, if a provider can hold the job orientation off-site or virtually, this would be considered acceptable. The person would not be allowed to enter any facility buildings where individuals are being served, even if separated from clients or escorted by staff, until the SEMARC results are available and the person is deemed employable.
6. How often must SEMARC and NAR searches be completed,	Staff must be checked upon hire and annually thereafter. Staff hired before August 2026 do not need to be rechecked until their next annual check. Providers may search more often, including monthly, as long as required checks do not exceed 365 days between searches.



and can providers search more often?	
7. How should providers document SEMARC, NAR, and other search results for survey or employee files?	The SEMARC technical support team is currently working on updates to the SEMARC system to include a date and time stamp for searches. Until the changes have been implemented, providers should follow program specific rules regarding required searches. SEMARC documentation must include a time/date stamp; because SEMARC does not currently display one, screenshot the results page with the computer date visible. If it is a bulk search, keep a single copy of the bulk search. Copies can be electronic or paper copy, as long as the files are accessible to HHSC upon request. NAR results may be downloaded from the yellow results bar.
8. How long are SEMARC results and search history available?	Completed SEMARC results are viewable for up to seven calendar days. After that, users can use Search History to access Determination and Reporting Agency details. Bulk searches are also retained in Search History with a search ID.
9. How many TULIP/SEMARc users can a business entity have, and who decides who gets access?	Each business entity may have up to 10 user accounts, regardless of location. The business entity decides who receives access. Providers should contact their facility or employer for guidance on security contacts.
10. What websites are used for TULIP, SEMARC, EMR, and NAR searches?	SEMARc is accessed through TULIP. TULIP can be accessed here: https://tulip.hhs.texas.gov/TULIP/s/login/ EMR and NAR searches can be run here: https://tulip.hhs.texas.gov/TULIP/s/login . The NAR can also be located from



	the TULIP home page under "Need Help," then "License Lookup Resources," and "Verify Occupational Licenses."
11. What DOB, SSN, and name information should be used for SEMARC/NAR searches?	Use DOB format MM/DD/YYYY and enter SSNs without dashes. SEMARC requires the user enter an individual's SSN unless they have not been assigned one. If the individual has not been assigned an SSN, select "not assigned." Search with name and SSN when available so the name appears on results. HHSC recommends searching maiden names because databases may not reflect name changes.
12. Will missing SSN information on printed results affect compliance, and how should identity be verified?	Providers will not be out of compliance solely because the SSN or last four digits do not appear on results. Providers may write the SSN on the results or use the personnel file to show the correlation. For TJJD results, use available identifiers, such as name, DOB, driver's license number, county, or facility details.
13. Is SEMARC verification required for professionally licensed staff, such as RNs?	Yes, per Health and Safety Code, Chapter 810 and Texas Administrative Code, §561.3, all staff, contractors and volunteers must be verified through SEMARC including licensed and unlicensed employees.
14. What happens if an individual is listed on SEMARC or another reporting entity?	If a person is listed in SEMARC, the person is unemployable. Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 810 and Texas Administrative Code §561.3 prohibits hiring anyone found to have committed reportable conduct by a participating state agency. A person cannot be listed in SEMARC without first receiving due process.



15. What happens if the DFPS results show pending?

Long-Term Care Regulation program providers who are currently required to use the SEMARC must select the “refresh” button each 24-hour period after DFPS returns a pending result. DFPS does not have the ability to return results immediately.

Users will see a list of pending search results when they log into SEMARC:

Date and Time	Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	Last 4 SSN	Search Status	Search ID	Actions
07/17/2026 12:27 PM					 Pending	cfca6dcc-ca37b-4b00-b381-03a8ba2a4ccf	Refresh
07/17/2026 11:40 AM					 Pending	4371d280-8f57-4de0-ac7d-2659f6e574ac	Refresh
07/17/2026 11:40 AM					 Pending	2d5a7c5c-cc35-4479-8a80-91cd88765f73	Refresh
07/17/2026 8:11 AM					 Pending	7fa093e0-83cf-4b05-8a33-6ec883331f6	Refresh
07/16/2026 10:13 AM					 Pending	f1d4052f-8108-4ace-b41c-04f18dc76088	Refresh

Users must click the “Refresh” link each 24-hour period from search entry until the search has been completed. For example, if a search is entered on Wednesday at 1 PM, the refresh button would need to be clicked on or after 1 PM on Thursday.



Once the search has been completed, the User view will update to reflect “View Print Results” as seen in the right column below:

Date and Time	Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	Last 4 SSN	Search Status	Search ID	Actions
08/07/2026 8:35 AM					Completed	cfa6dccc-ca37b-4b00-b381-03a8ba2a4cdf	View Past Results
08/06/2026 4:36 PM					Completed	1245817f-a964-41fe-9211-45e58ecc68cd	View Past Results
08/06/2026 4:36 PM					Completed	0c571e0f-d42b-439c-a13c-7a9eb96e7462	View Past Results
08/06/2026 4:36 PM					Completed	35be2aa1-d925-440c-9e77-a8158f1e7b7d	View Past Results
08/06/2026 4:36 PM					Completed	dbb61094-c754-4bc3-87a6-0f2c3cf2236b	View Past Results
08/06/2026 4:36 PM					Completed	143e4168-10d0-4fe8-8e8a-38b06a6ea87b	View Past Results
08/06/2026 4:35 PM					Completed	836082fc-5ae8-475f-9efb-e87266f78627	View Past Results
08/06/2026 4:35 PM					Completed	08014804-2817-43ba-81b4-83ac2da6e0a0	View Past Results

16. How do I submit a bulk search?

Long-Term Care Regulation program providers who are currently required to use the SEMARC must include the required information when submitting bulk search upload files. Each row must contain the search criteria for one individual.

The template requires the following fields in this specific order:



- First Name (Required)
- Last Name (Required)
- Social Security Number
- Date of Birth (Either Social Security Number or Date of Birth required)

The template should look like this:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	Social Security	Date of Birth	Alias_First	Alias_Last	Alias_First	Alias_Last
2	John	Smith	James	XXXXXXXXX	YYYY-MM-DD				
3	Please ensure you remove this sample text before uploading your file.								
4									
5									

Note: Users must not enter upload a blank file into the bulk search request.

If you have questions, please email SEMARC-EMR@hhs.texas.gov.

17. What is required for DAHS-ISS providers?

Before offering employment, DAHS-ISS providers must complete a criminal history check and search SEMARC, NAR, MAR, USLEIE, and the HHSC OIG LEIE. At least once every 12 months, they must search NAR, MAR, and SEMARC to confirm employees remain employable.

18. Is there a grace period for the SEMARC requirements?

Yes. See Provider Letter 2026-10 for details on the hold-harmless period of 08/03/2026-01/06/2027.



19. Where can providers find the SEMARC implementation letter or send SEMARC questions?	Refer to Provider Letter 2026-10 for SEMARC implementation information. Questions related to SEMARC may be sent to semarc-emr@hhs.texas.gov .
20. Can a person contest the fact that they are listed in SEMARC?	The person would need to contact the agency that entered the listed misconduct. Please refer to Provider Letter 2026-10 for a list of contacts for each agency.
21. If the results show "Not Found" does that mean I can hire the person?	Yes. If the results show "Not Found" it means that the person is not listed on any registry.