

Background Checks

BEST PRACTICES

- Determine whether there are positions or project descriptions that require background checks as well as reference checks, such as working with children or working with the organization's finances.
- Document information about the necessary steps to complete the process of background checking, fingerprinting, local procedures and costs in different municipalities.

TIP:

- On March 22, 2001, Amended Ohio Senate Bill 187 became law. The legislation's purpose is to help ensure that youth-serving organizations that place volunteers in positions requiring "unsupervised access to children on a regular basis" use appropriate screening methods. This law does not mandate fingerprint checks. It does say, however, that fingerprint checks must be suggested as a "best practice." As an incentive to organizations to fingerprint, the law says that organizations that use fingerprint check as part of their regular screening process are immune from civil liability should a volunteer (who has no "hits" as a result of that check) harm a child being served by that organization.