

CHAPTER 432

AN ACT concerning criminal history record background checks of employees and volunteers of nonprofit youth serving organizations and supplementing Title 2A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.15A:3A-1 Definitions relative to criminal history background checks for employees, volunteers of youth serving organizations.

1. As used in this act:

"Criminal history record background check" means a determination of whether a person has a criminal record by cross-referencing that person's name and fingerprints with those on file with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Identification Division and the State Bureau of Identification in the Division of State Police.

"Department" means the Department of Law and Public Safety.

"Nonprofit youth serving organization" or "organization" means a corporation, association or other organization established pursuant to Title 15 of the Revised Statutes, Title 15A of the New Jersey Statutes, or other law of this State, but excluding public and nonpublic schools, and which provides recreational, cultural, charitable, social or other activities or services for persons younger than 18 years of age, and is exempt from federal income taxes.

C.15A:3A-2 Youth serving organization request for criminal background check; costs.

2. a. A nonprofit youth serving organization may request, through the department, that the State Bureau of Identification in the Division of State Police conduct a criminal history record background check on each prospective and current employee or volunteer of the organization.

b. For the purpose of conducting the criminal history record background check, the division shall examine its own files and arrange for a similar examination by federal authorities. The division shall inform the department whether the person's criminal history record background check reveals a conviction of a disqualifying crime or offense as specified in section 3 of this act.

c. The division shall conduct a criminal history record background check only upon receipt of the written consent to the check of the prospective or current employee or volunteer.

d. The organization or the prospective or current employee or volunteer shall bear the costs associated with conducting criminal history background checks. Notwithstanding any law or regulation to the contrary, the department shall not charge a fee for a criminal history record background check that exceeds the actual cost of conducting that check, as determined by the Attorney General. The Attorney General shall annually certify to the State Treasurer the cost per criminal history background check in the immediately preceding year.

C.15A:3A-3 Conditions under which person is disqualified from service.

3. A person may be disqualified from serving as an employee or volunteer of a nonprofit youth serving organization if that person's criminal history record background check reveals a record of conviction of any of the following crimes and offenses:

a. In New Jersey, any crime or disorderly persons offense:

(1) involving danger to the person, meaning those crimes and disorderly persons offenses set forth in N.J.S.2C:11-1 et seq., N.J.S.2C:12-1 et seq., N.J.S.2C:13-1 et seq., N.J.S.2C:14-1 et seq. or N.J.S.2C:15-1 et seq.;

(2) against the family, children or incompetents, meaning those crimes and disorderly persons offenses set forth in N.J.S.2C:24-1 et seq.;

(3) involving theft as set forth in chapter 20 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes;

(4) involving any controlled dangerous substance or controlled substance analog as set forth in chapter 35 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes except paragraph (4) of subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:35-10.

b. In any other state or jurisdiction, conduct which, if committed in New Jersey, would constitute any of the crimes or disorderly persons offenses described in subsection a. of this section.

C.15A:3A-4 Submissions, exchange of background check information.

4. a. Prospective or current employees and volunteers of nonprofit youth serving organizations shall submit their name, address, fingerprints and written consent to the

organization for the criminal history record background check to be performed. The organization shall supply this documentation to the Attorney General, who shall coordinate the background check.

b. The Attorney General is authorized to exchange fingerprint data with, and receive criminal history record information for use by nonprofit youth serving organizations from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Identification Section and the Division of State Police, Bureau of Identification and such other law enforcement agencies and jurisdictions as may be necessary for the purposes of this act.

c. The department shall act as a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of information obtained as a result of conducting criminal history record background checks pursuant to this act.

C.15A:3A-5 Rules, regulations.

5. The Attorney General, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act concerning access to and dissemination of information obtained as a result of conducting a criminal history record background check.

6. This act shall take effect 90 days following enactment.

Approved January 18, 2000.