

CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR VOLUNTEERS WORKING DIRECTLY WITH CHILDREN

As a volunteer working with children in Pennsylvania, you will need to obtain the clearances listed below prior to interacting with a child. Fortunately, the first two can be applied for easily online and, as of July 25, 2015, are FREE for volunteers. In addition, if you have been a resident of Pennsylvania for 10 consecutive years you may not be required to complete an FBI fingerprint check. Check with the volunteer agency to confirm their FBI fingerprint requirements.

- Report of criminal history from the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP)
- Child Abuse History Clearance from the Department of Human Services (Child Abuse)

Additionally,

- If the volunteer has lived outside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the last 10 years, a fingerprint based federal criminal history (FBI) submitted through the Pennsylvania State Police or its authorized agent is required; (approx. cost \$25.75 and must be completed at a physical fingerprint location in your area)
- Volunteers who have been a continuous resident of Pennsylvania for the past 10 years may NOT be required to obtain the FBI Clearance but must swear and affirm in writing that they are not disqualified from volunteer service based upon a conviction of an offense under §6344.

Note: By Pennsylvania law these clearances (PSP, Child Abuse, and FBI) must be updated every 5 years.

We, then GCFP are known as **Mandate Reporters, unpaid individuals, who, on the basis of the individual's role as an integral part of a regular scheduled program, activity or service is a person responsible for the child's welfare or has direct contact with children.**

Please visit: <https://www.certifiedsafepa.org/safe/about/>, click on Pennsylvania's Clearance Requirements for Volunteers for further information.

**Chris Leskosky
GCFP President 2017-2019**