

May 18, 2015

Dear Servers in Children's Ministry,

Pennsylvania has passed a new law that requires all people who have direct contact with children or are responsible for their welfare, to have both a Pennsylvania State Police background check and Child Abuse History Clearance from the Department of Human Services. We are happy to comply with this law because we know its intention is to protect children, which of course all of us want to do. However, this may mean that if you do not have these current background checks that you must apply for them.

Thank you for your service and your willingness to do what is necessary to provide ministry to the kids of Turning Point Church. Please read below for the necessary information that you need and direct any questions to Rebecca Noss (495-2491) or Pastor George (592-9959).

Which clearances are needed?

All volunteers must have or obtain the following clearances:

- Report of criminal history from the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) \$10.00 <https://epatch.state.pa.us/>
- Child Abuse History Clearance from the Department of Human Services (Child Abuse) \$10.00 <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS>
- If the volunteer has not had a ten year continuous Pennsylvania Residency, they must apply for the FBI criminal history check mentioned below.
- Volunteers who are not required to obtain the FBI clearance must swear or affirm in writing that they are not disqualified from service based upon a conviction of an offense under 36344. You can download a letter affirming this from our website. Once downloaded, you can sign it and submit it with your background checks.

Additionally all paid employees must also have or obtain . . .

. . . a fingerprint based federal criminal history (FBI) submitted through the Pennsylvania State Police or its authorized agent \$27.50 www.pa.cogentid.com//index_dpw.html

You can find a copy of this instruction sheet as well as link to the above websites at Lesspew.com, under Sermons/Documents/Links.

When are clearances needed? (According to PA law:)

- * Within 36 months of the date of the most recent clearance
- * By 7/1/2016, if the clearance is older than 36 months
- * By 7/1/2016, if they were approved as a volunteer before 7/1/2015 and had not received a clearance because they previously were not required to obtain a clearance.

Turning Point Church would like all existing volunteers to have their clearances to Pastor George by September 1, 2015. New volunteers must have their clearances done before they are able to serve.

Who pays for clearances?

The volunteer is responsible for paying the cost of the required clearances. If there is a hardship please let Pastor George or Rebecca Noss know.

Can my clearances be transferred?

Yes, any person who obtained their clearances for another organization within the previous 36 months may serve in a volunteer capacity for any program, activity or service.

For more information: http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/C_135249.pdf