

PA Child Protection Laws and Clearances

Pennsylvania recently enacted new child protection laws effective August 25, 2015. As a result, any adult (18 years of age or older) who is volunteering for a role where they will be either: (a) acting in lieu of a parent, (b) having direct contact with children where they provide care, supervision, guidance or control of children, or (c) having routine interaction with children, will now need to have the following background clearances:

- Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance
- Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Records Check
- An FBI Criminal Background Check (if you have not been a continuous resident of Pennsylvania for 10 years)

The clearances are valid for 5 years, are transferrable (ie, if you obtain the clearance in conjunction with volunteering at school or your job you may present the same clearance to JYA) and must be provided to JYA before you begin volunteering. JYA is required to maintain copies of the clearances.

JYA will require each adult JYA Board Member, Head Coach, Assistant Coach(es), Trainer, and Camp Staff to provide proof of clearance. If you only volunteer once, no clearance is required. If, however, you volunteer more than once or expect that you may volunteer more than once, you will be required to provide the necessary clearances.

Additional information about the new requirements can be found at www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov.

PA Child Abuse History Clearance

The PA Child Abuse History Clearance is free of charge and may be obtained by visiting www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. The clearance results will be emailed/mailed to you.

Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Records Check

The Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Records Check is free of charge and may be obtained by visiting <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>, click on the New Record Check (Volunteers only) button. Note that you will need to print the results immediately.

In the event that you have not been a continuous resident of Pennsylvania for 10 years, you must also obtain an FBI Criminal Background Check by visiting https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_dpw.htm. Note that this is a multi-step check and will require fingerprinting. This clearance is not free, but upon presentation of your clearance JYA will reimburse you for the cost. This site https://www.pa.cogentid.com/ohio/PDE/PDE_regions/reg_23.htm provides locations for the fingerprinting, the Goin Postal site in Huntingdon Valley is very quick.

Once you have the necessary clearances, please email copies to JYA: jenkintownjya@gmail.com.

JYA and all of the children who participate in our programs appreciate you volunteering your time.

If you have any questions about the clearances, please email us at jenkintownjya@gmail.com.