



## Update on Clearance Fees for Staff and Volunteer

Date: June 15, 2015

On June 10, 2015, Governor Tom Wolf announced that the processing fees for Child Abuse Clearances and PA Criminal Record Checks will be eliminated for volunteers working with children, and cut from \$10 each to \$8 each for employees, beginning July 25, 2015. This change is not dependent on any legislative action.

This action by the governor does not affect the fees charged for FBI fingerprint checks for employees and for volunteers who have not lived in Pennsylvania for 10 years. Those fees are not controlled by the state and will still be in force.

If you have current volunteers who have not yet updated their clearances, it makes sense to have them wait until after July 25 and save \$20 each. Remember, you have until July 1, 2016 to get clearances for current volunteers.

As of July 1, 2015, new volunteers require clearances before you allow them to work with children. If you have new volunteers waiting to get clearances processed, you just have to decide whether you need their help before sometime in August when clearance applications made after July 25 will be completed; applications can take several weeks to be processed.

If you are reading or hearing in the news about new legislative changes to the clearance requirements and other features of last term's major legislation concerning child abuse, we are watching the legislative process, and will provide information when something is final. It is usually not best to rely on media reports, as these legislative changes are complicated, and reporters don't typically have in-depth knowledge of the changes, impact, or context within which a particular piece of legislation sits. Remember that the last set of changes began in early 2013 and some of it wasn't finalized until November, 2014 (and that was substantially rewritten in October, 2014).

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