

New PA Laws Take Effect for Volunteers Working With Children

Now most applications are FREE

New laws have taken effect that require all Pennsylvania organizations which have volunteers who work with children ages birth through 18 years old to have multiple background checks. Church volunteers are now required to provide background clearances for all child related activities .

For Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church this includes anyone who teaches, assists, or subs in Sunday school, nursery volunteers, choir parents, retreat chaperones, car drivers, helpers with all youth activities and all adults who have contact with children through a volunteer job. This is a sweeping change to the laws which used to only require this level of background clearances for paid staff.

Volunteers who have lived in Pennsylvania for the past 10 years can be exempted from the FBI clearance by signing an Affirmation of Residency. However we need **three** pages on file from each person.

1. **PA Criminal Background Check-** <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp> This form is easy to use and the report prints out immediately. Free

2. **A Child Abuse Background Check-**

- a. <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home> Free You will need a list of your addresses from 1975 to present to complete this form. If you cannot find one or two full address the City and State will usually suffice.
- b. Create a Login for an Individual and save it. The report usually takes two weeks. You can use the logon and password you create to check on its' progress. (Takes about 14 days)
- c. If you have difficulty with this form, please call Donna to make an appointment and she will schedule a time for you to come to the office. *Please do not drop in without an appointment.*

3. **Affirmation of 10-year Residency OR Federal Criminal History Record**

- a. We will print out the Affirmation of 10-year Residency forms for you and you can leave it in the office.

OR

- b. You will need the Federal Criminal History Record (Obtained through the FBI)if you have not lived in PA continuously for 10 years. This one is a little complicated. Fortunately, most of you will not need it. For a list of locations to get the service in Montgomery County https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_pdeNew.htm *Note on that page a link to **what to bring***
- c. On the link above, you will also need to print out a form to take with you for fingerprinting. A call to the store in advance will ensure that you have everything you need. You can ask what their service fee is.
- d. A fee of \$28.75 is charged for the federal submission. If you cannot afford it, please save your receipt and GSPC will reimburse you.

Need help? Call or email Office@Gwyneddsquare.org

BACKGROUND AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

I swear and affirm that:

I am an unpaid volunteer, AND

I have been a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the past TEN YEARS as listed below,
AND

I have not been convicted of any crime or offense under the criminal laws or former laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania OR under the laws or former laws of the United States or one of its territories or possessions, another state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or a foreign nation.

My residence for the past ten years has been (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Street Address	City	State	ZIP		Date From	Date To
						current

I hereby swear or affirm that the information I have provided in this statement is true and correct. Also, by signing this Background Affirmation Statement, I indicate my understanding that false swearing of this Affirmation is punishable by law, pursuant to Section 4903(b) of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code.

Signed on this date: _____

Signature

Printed Name