



MEMO TO: BALD EAGLE DISTRICT LEADERS

RE: CHILD PROTECTION SERVICE LAW REQUIREMENTS (ACT 153)

DATE: APRIL 15, 2015

Who needs clearances?

Volunteers responsible for the welfare of a child or having direct contact with children. A child is any individual under 18 years old. All persons involved in scouting are mandatory reporters under the law and shall report any good faith suspicion of child abuse.

How is direct contact with children defined?

Direct contact is defined in section 6303 of the Act as the care, supervision, guidance or control of children or routine interaction with children.

How does one report abuse?

First obligation is to call 1-800-932-0313 to report or report via the website at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. If the abuse is scouting related also call the scout executive at 570-326-5121 ext 103.

When are clearances needed?

- By July 1, 2016 if approved as a volunteer before July 1, 2015
- Beginning July 1, 2015 volunteers must submit clearances prior to the commencement of service
- By July 1, 2015 if your unit is chartered to a United Methodist Church. Note: the United Methodist Church has established a more ambitious timeline than required under the Act.
- Clearances must be updated every three years.

What clearances are needed?

1. PA State Police for report of criminal history. Cost \$10.00
2. Department of Human Services child abuse history. Cost \$10.00
3. FBI fingerprint federal history check if volunteer has lived outside PA in the last 10 years. Cost \$27.50. If volunteer has been a continuous resident of PA for the past 10 years this check is not required if the volunteer completes an affidavit indicating they are not disqualified from service based upon a conviction of an offense under Section 6344 of the Act. Units chartered to a United Methodist Church must use the Affidavit document and have it notarized. Others may use the Susquehanna Council BSA Disclosure Statement that is not required to be notarized. Those not responsible for the welfare of a child nor having direct contact with children should complete the Susquehanna Council BSA Waiver of Background Checks to document this fact.

How to I obtain clearances?

All three clearances can be applied for and paid electronically. All instructions and links can be found at <http://www.dhs.state.pa.us/findaform/childabusehistoryclearanceforms/index.htm>.

Who should have copies?

The unit should maintain a copy, the chartered organization should have a copy and the Council office should have a copy.

NOTE: The above is a summary of some of the main features of Act 153 and provided to assist leaders with compliance. Refer to the Act for additional information and also communicate with the chartered organization to insure compliance with their requirements.