

Vulnerable Sector Information Bulletin

WHAT IS A VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECK

Vulnerable people are considered to be individuals who are at greater risk of being harmed than the general population because of their age, disability or other circumstances, whether temporary or permanent. An organization with paid or voluntary persons who are responsible for the well-being of children or vulnerable people may request a Vulnerable Sector check for any of those employees/volunteers who are in a position of trust. This check is conducted in addition to a Criminal Record check. A database is checked to see if the subject has received a pardon for a Criminal Offense or a sexual nature.

HISTORY

In the fall of 2000 changes were made to the Criminal Records Act to enhance screening of employees and volunteers in position of trust with vulnerable individuals. Bill C-7 was an initiative of the Federal Solicitor General to permit the flagging of pardoned sex offenders. The amendment enabled police services to query certain “flagged” sex related offences in the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) for which a pardon had been granted. Many community organizations who are responsible for the wellbeing of one or more children or vulnerable persons request a vulnerable sector search.

CURRENT UPDATE

On July 19th, 2010 the RCMP instituted further enhancements to the CPIC system for querying flagged pardoned sex offender records, commonly referred to as a vulnerable sector (VS) search. RCMP advises that the enhancements have been made in Canada for the reason that only two Provinces have Legislation requiring an individual requesting a name change to submit fingerprints. Prior to July 19th, the CPIC system would attempt to identify a possible match to a pardoned sex offender file by searching the surname, first name, Date of Birth and gender of the applicant. The CPIC system will now base the VS search on Date of Birth and gender of the applicant.

WHAT THIS MEANS TO THE APPLICANT

With the enhancement to the VS search we will now see an increase in the number of returns we are deeming as “Inconclusive”. Your date of birth and gender identifies you as a possible match, which means a conclusive result can only be verified by the submission of your fingerprints to the RCMP. The RCMP have advised that fingerprints submitted for vulnerable sector purposes will be treated as a priority and processing time may take upwards of 120 days if the fingerprint submission links the applicant to a pardoned sex offender file. If your application has an Inconclusive return for a VS check it will be stamped with the following information:

“Your Vulnerable Sector results were Inconclusive and can only be confirmed through fingerprint submission”

WHAT ARE YOUR CHOICES?

- 1) Take this information to your employer or volunteer organization to see if they are content with the results as explained, without the submission of fingerprints.
- 2) If you choose to continue with the Vulnerable Sector verification process, additional fees are required and you have to book an appointment with a Fingerprint Technician by calling (613) 966-0882 to have your fingerprints taken. The process takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. Your fingerprints are then submitted to the RCMP for physical verification. We will contact you when they return.
 - a. FEES FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES
 - \$25 to the RCMP – payable by certified cheque or money order to ***“The Receiver General of Canada”***
 - \$20 to the Belleville Police Service (cash only)
 - b. FEES FOR VOLUNTEER PURPOSES
 - \$20 to the Belleville Police Service (cash only)

If you require further information on Vulnerable Sector Screening see the RCMP website as www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca