



Halton Regional Police Service

Records Information Services Bulletin Wait Times for Vulnerable Sector Searches

History:

In the fall of 2000, changes were made to the Criminal Records Act to enhance screening of employees and volunteers in positions 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 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. Prior to July 19th, the CPIC system would attempt to identify a possible match to a pardoned sex offender file by searching the surname, 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. This means applicants who share the date of birth and gender of a pardoned sex offender will be required to submit fingerprints.

What This Means to Organizations and Applicants:

With the recent enhancement to VS searches, up to 20 percent of all applicants for VS Searches in Halton Region are now required to submit fingerprints. Prior to implementation of these enhancements, fewer than 0.5 per cent of applicants were required to submit fingerprints; a process which prolongs the screening process.

Processing time has been reduced since the implementation of electronic prints if the fingerprint submission links the applicant to a pardoned sex offender file.

If the organization or applicant requires the vulnerable sector search for employment purposes and a fingerprint submission is required, additional fees are required. The applicant may choose to discontinue the process, however must do so prior to submitting fingerprints. Once fingerprints have been submitted no refund is available.

Fees**:

1. \$30.00 for employment, \$15.00 for volunteer positions to Halton Regional Police Service for security clearance check, payable by cash, debit, Visa or MasterCard.
2. \$25.00 to the RCMP for fingerprint processing, payable by cash, debit, Visa or MasterCard.

Issue date: 11 02 17

Page 2

** Both the Halton Regional Police Service and the RCMP have waived any fees associated with fingerprinting to volunteer applicants who provide an original Community Organization and Volunteer Authorization letter.

Volunteer Organizations:

In July, 2010, the Halton Regional Police Service sent an Information Bulletin to all Community Organizations registered as members of our approved volunteer community organization list.

The Halton Regional Police Service is dedicated to ensuring the safety of our community and are doing everything possible to reduce wait times for vulnerable sector searches. Delays should be anticipated by applicants who are required to submit fingerprints.

Additional information about vulnerable sector searches in Halton Region is available on our website at www.haltonpolice.ca in the *Courts and Records* section under *Records*.

Additional information is available on the RCMP website at www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca or you may contact the RCMP at CCRTIS-CCRTIS-SCICTR@RCMP-GRC.GC.CA.