

Applicant

You may submit your request for Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance either online or via mail. Please select which method you would like to use and follow only those instructions to complete your submission.

Submission Options

1. Online submission via the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Portal
 - » Follow instructions on pages 2 - 3.
2. Mail submission
 - » Follow instructions on pages 4 - 8.

Submission Method: Online via Pennsylvania Child Welfare Portal

Follow the instructions below to submit your Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance electronically.

Create Individual Login

To submit your request online via the portal, you will need to create an individual login. (If you already have your Keystone ID login, then you can skip this setup portion and start with the login instructions.)

- Go to the website: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home> and select "Create Individual Account".
- This will require you to create a "Keystone ID", select "Next".
- Enter your personal information choosing a keystone ID (username) to create an account. Select "Finish" when you have completed entering all of the information.
- You will then be emailed (to the email address you provided) your confirmed registered "Keystone ID" in one email and a separate email will have a temporary password to use.
- Go back to the website: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home> and select "Individual Login".
- You will be taken to a page that says "What would you like to do today?" select "Access my clearances".
- You will be taken to a page with disclosure information to review and select "Continue".
- When you get to the login page, enter your "Keystone ID" as the username and the temporary password you received in your email and select "Login".
 - » Upon logging in for the first time, it will have you change your password, do so and select "Submit".
- This will take you to a page stating your password was successfully changed. Select "Close Window" to go back and login again with your new password.

Login to Account to Create Application

After you've created your Keystone ID, login to your account to create your clearance application.

- Go to the website: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home> and select "Individual Login".
- For "What Would You Like To Do Today?" select "Access My Clearances".
- Select "Continue" on the next page that includes disclosure information.
- Login with your "Keystone ID" and password.
- Read the terms and conditions and select "I have read, fully understand..." and select "Next".
- After reading the disclosure information, select "Continue".
- You will be taken to a page that says "My PA Child Abuse History Clearances". Select "Create Clearance Application".
- After reading the information on the "Getting Started" page, select "Begin".
- Part 1 is where you will enter all personal identifying information.
 - » Select "Volunteer Having Contact with Children...". After selecting this, 2 drop downs will appear:
 - » For "Volunteer Category" choose "Other".
 - » For "Agency Name" enter the agency name that you are performing the background check for (i.e. University Name, Health Care Provider Name, etc.).
 - » Continue through the remaining pages in Part 1 to enter your information (name, dob, addresses, etc.). Review and ensure all information is accurate.

(continued on next page)

Login to Account to Create Application (*continued*)

- Part 2 is the electronic signature and payment portion of the application.
 - » If you have not had a free volunteer certification within the previous 57 months, you will not be required to pay for your request.
 - » Select “No” for whether you have received a free certification in the past 57 months.
 - » Affirm that the information is accurate.
 - » Under “Signature” type in your name, as it was entered in Part 1, to electronically sign your name and select “Next”.
 - » You will see a screen that says because you are a volunteer and have not received your free certification within the past 57 months that your fee is waived. Select “Waive application fee and submit application” to submit.
 - » If you have received a free volunteer certification within the previous 57 months, you will be required to pay for a new certification.
 - » Select “Yes” for whether you have received a free certification in the past 57 months. Affirm that the information is accurate.
 - » Under “Signature” type in your name, as it was entered in Part 1, to electronically sign your name and select “Next”.
 - » You will see a screen that asks if your organization provided you an authorization code for payment. Select “No” and then select “Make a payment”.
 - » Complete payment information and submit request.

Results

- Results will be returned to you using your online account (and a copy via mail).
- **Important:** If you save your results electronically from your online account, you **must** take extra steps before uploading your result to CastleBranch.
 - » The electronic file often includes an encryption that does not allow it to be directly saved and then uploaded to the CastleBranch website. This causes an error during upload or it will show as blank to the CastleBranch staff and be rejected.
 - » Instead of directly saving your electronic file, please first print your result and then scan it in to save and upload. Using this method should reduce the risk of your submission being rejected for errors.

Submission Method: Via Mail

Paper submissions of the Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance application will still be accepted for anyone who may not have access to the internet. Follow the instructions below to mail your submission.

Complete Required Release

To submit your request via mail you will have to submit a properly completed required release form along with any necessary payment. Make sure you follow all instructions carefully to reduce risk of rejection.

- Print the release form on pages 5-6 of this packet and follow the instructions included on pages 7-8 to complete all applicable fields.
 - » For "Purpose of Certification" check the box for "Volunteer having direct volunteer contact with children."
 - » Also select "Other" under "Sub Category" and list the specific reason that you are requesting this clearance as a volunteer (i.e. clinical volunteer work, etc.).
 - » For "Agency Name" enter the agency name that you are performing the background check for (i.e. University Name, Health Care Provider Name, etc.).
- Mail the completed request form along with any applicable payment* to the following:
 - » Childline and Abuse Registry
Department of Human Services
PO Box 8170
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8170
- *Please note: Volunteer searches are free once every 57 months. If you have had a search completed free of charge in the past 57 months, you must include payment to process your request. Please see the release form for current cost and methods of payment accepted.

PENNSYLVANIA CHILD ABUSE HISTORY CERTIFICATION

Type or print clearly in ink. If obtaining this certification for non-volunteer purposes or if, as a volunteer having direct volunteer contact with children, you have obtained a certification free of charge within the previous 57 months, enclose an \$13.00 money order or check payable to the PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES or a payment authorization code provided by your organization. **DO NOT send cash.**

Certifications for the purpose of "volunteer having direct volunteer contact with children" may be obtained free of charge once every 57 months.

Send to CHILDLINE AND ABUSE REGISTRY, PA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, P.O. BOX 8170 HARRISBURG, PA 17105-8170.

APPLICATIONS THAT ARE INCOMPLETE, ILLEGIBLE OR RECEIVED WITHOUT THE CORRECT FEE WILL BE RETURNED UNPROCESSED. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CALL 717-783-6211, OR (TOLL FREE) 1-877-371-5422.

PURPOSE OF CERTIFICATION (Check one box only)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foster parent
<input type="checkbox"/> Prospective adoptive parent
<input type="checkbox"/> Employee of child care services
<input type="checkbox"/> School employee governed by the Public School Code
<input type="checkbox"/> School employee not governed by the Public School Code
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed provider of child-care services in a family child-care home
<input type="checkbox"/> An individual 14 years of age or older applying for or holding a paid position as an employee with a program, activity, or service
<input type="checkbox"/> An individual seeking to provide child-care services under contract with a child care facility or program
<input type="checkbox"/> An individual 18 years or older who resides in the home of a foster parent for children for at least 30 days in a calendar year
<input type="checkbox"/> An individual 18 years or older who resides in the home of a certified or licensed child-care provider for at least 30 days in a calendar year
<input type="checkbox"/> An individual 18 years or older, excluding individuals receiving services, who resides in a family living home, community home for individuals with an intellectual disability, or host home for children for at least 30 days in a calendar year
<input type="checkbox"/> An individual 18 years or older who resides in the home of a prospective adoptive parent for at least 30 days in a calendar year | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer having direct volunteer contact with children
If purpose is volunteer having direct volunteer contact with children, choose SUB PURPOSE:
<input type="checkbox"/> Big Brother/Big Sister and/or affiliate
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence shelter and/or affiliate
<input type="checkbox"/> Rape crisis center and/or affiliate
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> PA Department of Human Services Employment & Training Program participant (signature required below)

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>_____
SIGNATURE OF OIM/CAO REPRESENTATIVE</div> <div>_____
OIM/CAO PHONE NUMBER</div> </div> |
|---|--|

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION NAME:

PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION CODE, IF APPLICABLE:

- ☐ Consent/Release of Information Authorization form is attached. Applicant must fill in the "Other Address" sections. By completing the other address sections, you are agreeing that the organization will have access to the status and outcome of your certification application.

APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (DO NOT USE INITIALS)

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	SUFFIX
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER — — — — —	GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Not reported	DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)	AGE

Disclosure of your Social Security number is voluntary. It is sought under 23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6336(a)(1) (relating to information in statewide database), 6344 (relating to employees having contact with children; adoptive and foster parents), 6344.1 (relating to information relating to certified or licensed child-care home residents), and 6344.2 (relating to volunteers having contact with children). The department will use your Social Security number to search the statewide database to determine whether you are listed as the perpetrator in an indicated or founded report of child abuse.

HOME ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS (if different from home address)	OTHER ADDRESS (if Consent/Release of Information Authorization form is attached)
ADDRESS LINE 1	ADDRESS LINE 1	ADDRESS LINE 1
ADDRESS LINE 2	ADDRESS LINE 2	ADDRESS LINE 2
CITY	CITY	CITY
COUNTY	COUNTY	COUNTY
STATE/REGION/PROVINCE	STATE/REGION/PROVINCE	STATE/REGION/PROVINCE
ZIP/POSTAL CODE	ZIP/POSTAL CODE	ZIP/POSTAL CODE
COUNTRY	COUNTRY	COUNTRY
<input type="checkbox"/> Different mailing address	ATTENTION	ATTENTION

CONTACT INFORMATION

HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER	WORK TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER
EMAIL (By submitting an email contact, you are agreeing to ChildLine contacting you at this address.)		

PENNSYLVANIA CHILD ABUSE HISTORY CERTIFICATION

PREVIOUS NAMES USED SINCE 1975 (Include maiden name, nickname and aliases.)			
First	Middle	Last	Suffix
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

PREVIOUS ADDRESSES SINCE 1975 (Please list all addresses since 1975, partial address acceptable; attach additional pages if necessary.)
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (Please list everyone who lived with you at any time since 1975 to present. Please include parent, guardian or the person(s) who raised you; attach additional pages as necessary.)				
Name (First, Middle, Last)	Relationship	Present Age	Gender	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian <input type="checkbox"/> person(s) who raised you			
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian <input type="checkbox"/> person(s) who raised you			
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

I affirm that the above information is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief and submitted as true and correct under penalty of law (Section 4904 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code). If I selected volunteer, I understand that I can only use the certificate for volunteer purposes.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

CHILDLINE USE ONLY		
DATE RECEIVED BY CHILDLINE	SUFFICIENT PAYMENT INFORMATION RECEIVED <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> VALID PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION CODE <input type="checkbox"/> WAIVED (supervisor initials) _____	CERTIFICATION ID #

INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLETE THE PENNSYLVANIA CHILD ABUSE HISTORY CERTIFICATION APPLICATION:

General:

- Type or print clearly and neatly in ink only.
- If obtaining this certification for non-volunteer purposes or if, as a volunteer having direct volunteer contact with children, you have obtained a certification free of charge within the previous 57 months, enclose an \$13.00 money order or check for each application. No cash will be accepted. Personal, agency, or business checks are acceptable. Certifications for the purpose of "volunteer having direct volunteer contact with children" may be obtained free of charge once every 57 months. If no payment is enclosed for a non-volunteer purpose, you must provide a payment authorization code, otherwise your application will be rejected and returned to you.
- **DO NOT SEND POSTAGE PAID RETURN ENVELOPES** for us to return your results. Results are issued through an automated system generated mailing process.
- Certification results will be mailed to you within 14 days from the date the certification application is received at the ChildLine and Abuse Registry.
- Failure to comply with the instructions will cause considerable delay in processing the results of an applicant's child abuse history certification application.

Purpose of Certification - Do not check more than one box:

- Check the **foster parent** box if applying for purposes of providing foster care.
- Check the **prospective adoptive parent** box if applying for the purpose of adoption.
- Check the **employee of child care services** box if applying for the purpose of child care services in the following:
 - Child day care centers; group day care homes; family day care homes; boarding homes for children; juvenile detention center services or programs for delinquent or dependent children; mental health services for children; services for children with intellectual disabilities; early intervention services for children; drug and alcohol services for children; and day care services or other programs that are offered by a school.
- Check the **school employee governed by the Public School Code** box if you are a school employee who is required to obtain background checks pursuant to Section 111 of the Public School Code and will continue to be required to obtain background checks prior to employment in accordance with that section and on the periodic basis required by Act 153.
- Check the **school employee not governed by the Public School Code** box if you are a school employee not governed by Section 111 of the Public School Code, but covered by Act 153 (pertaining to school employees in institutions of higher education).

Definition of school employee: A school employee is defined as an individual who is employed by a school or who provides a program, activity or service sponsored by a school. The term does not apply to administrative or other support personnel unless they have direct contact with children.

Definition of school: A facility providing elementary, secondary or postsecondary educational services. The term includes the following:

- (1) Any school of a school district.
 - (2) An area vocational-technical school.
 - (3) A joint school.
 - (4) An intermediate unit.
 - (5) A charter school or regional charter school.
 - (6) A cyber charter school.
 - (7) A private school licensed under the act of January 28, 1988 (P.L.24, No. 11), known as the Private Academic Schools Act.
 - (8) A private school accredited by an accrediting association approved by the state Board of Education.
 - (9) A non-public school.
 - (10) An institution of higher education.
 - (11) A private school licensed under the act of December 15, 1986 (P.L. 1585, No. 174), known as the Private Licensed Schools Act.
 - (12) The Hiram G. Andrews Center.
 - (13) A private residential rehabilitative institution as defined in section 914.1-A(c) of the Public School Code of 1949.
- Check the **self-employed provider of child-care services in a family child-care home** if providing child care services in one's home (other than the child's own home) at any one time to four, five, or six children who are not relatives of the caregiver.
 - Check the **individual 14 years of age or older who is applying for or holding a paid position as an employee** box if the employment is with a **program, activity, or service, as a person responsible for the child's welfare or having direct contact with children:** Applying as an employee who is responsible for the child's welfare or having direct contact (providing care, supervision, guidance, or control to children or having routine interaction with children) in any of the following in which children participate and which is sponsored by a school or public or private organization:
 - A youth camp or program;
 - A recreational camp or program;
 - A sports or athletic program;
 - A community or social outreach program;
 - An enrichment or educational program; and
 - A troop, club, or similar organization
 - Check the **individual seeking to provide child care services under contract with a child care facility or program** box if you are providing child care services as part of a contract or grant funded program.
 - Check the box for **individual 18 years or older who resides in the home of a foster parent for at least 30 days in a calendar year** if you are an adult household member in this setting and require certification.
 - Check the box for **individual 18 years or older who resides in the home of a certified or licensed child-care provider for at least 30 days in a calendar year** if you are an adult household member in this setting and require certification.

- Check the box for **individual 18 years or older, excluding individuals receiving services, who resides in a family living home, community home for individuals with an intellectual disability, or host home for children for at least 30 days in a calendar year** if you are an adult household member in this setting and require certification.
- Check the box for **individual 18 years or older who resides in the home of a prospective adoptive parent for at least 30 days in a calendar year** if you are an adult household member in this setting and require certification.
- Check the **volunteer having direct volunteer contact with children** box if applying for the purpose of volunteering as an adult for an unpaid position as a volunteer with a child-care service, a school, or a program, activity or service as a person responsible for the child's welfare or having direct volunteer contact with children. In addition, check the box of one of the organizations listed, i.e. Big Brother/Big Sister, domestic violence shelter, rape crisis center. If you are **NOT** applying for a volunteer in one of the organizations listed, please check the **other** box and write the name of the organization in the space provided.
- Check the **PA Department of Human Services employment & training program participant** box if you are applying for the purpose of participating in a PA Department of Human Services employment and training program through a county assistance office (CAO) or the Office of Income Maintenance (OIM). The signature **AND** phone number of the CAO or OIM representative is required. If there is no signature and no phone number, your application will be rejected and returned to you.
- If you were provided a "**PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION CODE**" by an organization, please provide the **agency/organization name** in the space provided and the **payment authorization code** in the space provided.
- Please check the **CONSENT/RELEASE OF INFORMATION** box if you included a payment code in the space above and attached the completed Consent/Release of Information Authorization form to your Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Certification application when you mail it to our office. The Consent/Release of Information Authorization form allows the department to send your results to a third party. If the Consent/Release of Information Authorization form is **NOT** attached to the certification application, the results **WILL** be mailed to the applicant's home address and not to the third party.

Applicant Demographic Information:

- Name - Include the applicant's full legal name. Initials are not acceptable for a first name. If your full legal name is an initial, please provide supporting documentation along with your certification application.
- Social Security number - Include the applicant's social security number. A social security number is voluntary; **HOWEVER, PLEASE NOTE THAT APPLICATIONS THAT DO NOT INCLUDE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS MAY TAKE LONGER TO BE PROCESSED.**
- Gender - Please check one box.
- Date of birth - Fill in the applicant's date of birth (Example: 01/22/1990).
- Age - Fill in the applicant's current age.

Address:

- The address listed must be the applicant's current home address. This is also where the results of the certification will be mailed, unless otherwise noted. If the **different mailing address** box is checked and a mailing address is provided in the "different" mailing address column, the results will be mailed to the "mailing" address and not the "home" address. **Note:** If the consent/release of information box is checked and an "other" address is provided, the results will be mailed to the "other" address.

Contact Information:

- Please provide your home, work or mobile telephone number. Fill in the number where the applicant can be reached in the event that there are questions about the information on the application.
- Please provide an email address. By providing an email address, you are consenting to ChildLine contacting you by email in the event that you cannot be reached by phone. **NO CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION WILL EVER BE SHARED OR PROVIDED IN AN EMAIL FROM OUR OFFICE.**

Previous Names Used Since 1975:

- The applicant must list any and all full legal names that they have ever had since 1975. This includes maiden names, nicknames, aliases and also known as (aka) names.

Previous Addresses Since 1975:

- List all addresses where the applicant has resided since 1975. The applicant can attach an additional sheet of paper with all of the addresses listed if necessary. If the applicant cannot remember the exact mailing addresses since 1975, filling in as much information as possible about the location is acceptable.

Household Members:

- Include anyone that the applicant lived with since 1975 (parents, guardians, siblings, children, spouse (ex), paramour, friends, etc.). In addition, include the household member's relationship to the applicant, their age (to the best of your knowledge) and their gender. If the applicant was under the age of 18 in 1975, this section **MUST** include the applicant's PARENT(S) or GUARDIAN(S). If this section is left blank, the application will be rejected and returned to the applicant.

Signature:

- Applications **MUST** be signed and dated. Applications that are not signed and dated will be rejected and returned to the applicant.

CHILDLINE USE ONLY:

- Please DO NOT WRITE in this section. This is for CHILDLINE staff only.

Additional Information:

Applicants can visit <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS> for more information about submitting the child abuse certification online or to register for a business/organization account.