



Why Do Scout Leaders Need Diocesan Mandated Clearances?



The following is the rationale for the mandate that all Scout Leaders are required by the Diocese of Erie to submit the background clearances required of all adults who work with children in our parishes and schools.

It is the policy of the Diocese of Erie that all adults must have the PA State Police Criminal Record Check and the PA Department of Welfare Child Abuse History Clearance completed to allow them to work with children in our parishes and programs. The office understands that the Girl and Boy Scout organizations conduct their own background checks and is familiar with many of the companies that offer this service. However, one clearance requires a waiver to be able to obtain the results: the PA Department of Welfare *Child Abuse History Clearance*. In 2010, the PA Dept. of Public Welfare made a waiver available so that results of the Child Abuse History Clearance can be sent directly to the requestor. This waiver must, of course, be signed by the applicant. To our knowledge, there is no company who is making use of that waiver to obtain the results of the Child Abuse History Clearance. The diocese requires that this clearance be checked, so the Scout leaders must submit this clearance.

Because it is necessary to attach the results of the completed PA State Police Criminal Record Check to the application for the PA Department of Welfare Child Abuse History Clearance, both clearances must be completed. When the requestor receives their Child Abuse History Clearance report from the PA Department of Welfare, they must bring the original to the parish/school so a copy may be made for their personnel file. If the person has signed a waiver, the results will be sent directly to the requestor and **NOT** to the applicant. A copy of the results of the PA State Police Criminal Record Check must also be included in the file maintained at the parish or school.

Additionally, if the adult has not been a resident of PA for at least two years prior to their work with children, they must also submit a Federal Background Check, which includes fingerprinting. If you find it necessary to do this for any of your volunteers, check our website at <http://www.eriercd.org/pdf/federalcriminalrecordcheck.pdf> for instructions.