



Volunteer Background Check Policy

YouthCare values the safety of those involved in our programs.

To this end, we background check all employees and most volunteers. All direct service volunteers, or volunteers who will work directly with YouthCare clients in any program are required to pass a background check. Administrative and maintenance volunteers who serve on a regular schedule will also have a background check completed.

YouthCare's background check includes a nationwide conviction history check. The applicant's social security number is checked in a national database to verify residence history and social security number. Therefore a social security number is required for ongoing volunteers. All applicants are also checked through the county court clerk's office in their county of current and former residences for misdemeanor and felony history. Responses from several states—such as Washington—include traffic and moving violation information.

The process generally takes approximately 7 business days, sometimes longer, with additional time needed for applicants with former residences in certain states.

Convictions for the following crimes make an applicant ineligible to volunteer at YouthCare:

- Any felony (any crime punishable by confinement of greater than one year)
- Any gross misdemeanor
- Any crime involving force or threat of force against a person
- Any crime involving controlled substances (not paraphernalia or alcohol)
- Any crime involving cruelty to animals
- Any crime of a sexual nature (including but not limited to sexual conduct with a minor, sexual assault, molestation, sexual abuse, indecent exposure, public sexual indecency, sexual exploitation of a minor, incest, failure to register as a sex offender, etc.)

If you fail to clear the background check, you will not be able to volunteer for YouthCare. You will be notified by email if you fail to clear the background check. You are entitled to copies of any public records obtained by YouthCare unless you have waived this right on your application form.

If you feel the circumstances around the conviction precluding you from volunteering need further review, or you would like to discuss them further, please contact YouthCare's Volunteer Manager at 206-267-3076 or volunteer@youthcare.org.

The aforementioned paperwork can be obtained from the Volunteer Manager. Any paperwork of this nature will be kept confidential and safe in the YouthCare files.