

## Summary

In October 2014, Governor Corbett signed PA Act 153 into law. This legislation is designed to increase the safety of children by requiring background checks and child abuse clearances for all volunteers and staff who are responsible for children. This law impacts all organizations who serve youth and also includes strengthened mandatory reporting requirements for adult volunteers and staff. (On July 2, 2015, Governor Wolf signed PA HB 1276 which made changes to PA Act 53 establishing it as Act 15. Those changes are reflected below and noted with (\*\*).

## What is the criteria for clearances?

Adults who are currently unpaid volunteers, or are applying to be unpaid volunteers with the following responsibilities should ask: Am I .....

1. A Direct Contact Scout Leader (Cubmaster, Asst. CM, Tiger, Den or Cebelos Leader, Scoutmaster, Asst. SM, Crew Advisor, Asst. Crew Adv., Post Advisor, Asst. Post Adv., Skipper, Mate, Merit Badge Counselor, Unit Commissioner). If **YES** ...you need clearances. If **NO** ...ask the following..
2. Am I ever in charge of a group of Scouts? **OR**
3. Do I assist in the care, supervision, guidance, or control of Scouts more than 3 times during a calendar year at meetings and day trips, or on more than one camping trip since joining the unit? If your answer to either question 2 or 3 is **YES** ...you need clearances. If **NO** ...you do not need the clearances

**Note** : If you do not meet the criteria and are not required to secure clearances, you must complete the PA Scouter Waiver of Mandated Background Checks. ([LINK](#))

## What clearances are required?

Volunteers who meet any of the above criteria must have the following clearances:

- Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History **No cost.**
- Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Child Abuse Clearance. **No cost.**
- FBI fingerprint based Federal Criminal History. **Cost is \$25.75**

## Where do I get the clearances?

- PA State Police Criminal History – <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>
- PA Human Services Child Abuse Clearance - <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS>
- FBI Fingerprint Criminal History – [https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index\\_dpw.htm](https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_dpw.htm)