Pennsylvania means business when it comes to protecting our children. The law requires many people who work or volunteer with children to get their clearances. Are you one of them?

Find out if you need clearances.
Apply online. Getting clearances is easier and less expensive than ever.
WHO NEEDS CHILD ABUSE CLEARANCES?

• An employee of child care services.
• A foster parent.
• A prospective adoptive parent.
• A self-employed provider of child care services in a family child care home.
• An individual 14 years of age or older who is applying for or holding a paid position as an employee with a program, activity or service as a person responsible for the child’s welfare or having direct contact with children.
  – If the program, activity or service is an internship, externship, work-study, co-op or similar program, only an adult applying for or holding a paid position with an employer that participates in the internship, externship, work-study, co-op or similar program with a school and whom the employer and the school identify as the child’s supervisor and the person responsible for the child’s welfare while the child participates in the program with the employer must obtain the certifications.
• Any individual seeking to provide child-care services under contract with a child care facility or program.

• School employees governed by Section 111 of the Public School Code.
• School employees not governed by the Public School Code with the exception of certain employees of an institution of higher education whose direct contact with children through the course of employment is limited to prospective students visiting a campus operated by the institution of higher education; or matriculated students who are enrolled with the institution.
• An individual 18 years of age or older who resides in the home of a foster parent for at least 30 days in a calendar year or who resides in the home of a prospective adoptive parent for at least 30 days in a calendar year.
• An individual 18 years of age or older who resides in the following homes which are subject to supervision or licensure by the department under Articles IX and X of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code:
  – A family living home.
  – A community home for individuals with an intellectual disability.
  – A host home for children.
    › This does not include an individual with an intellectual disability or chronic psychiatric disability receiving services in a home.
• Volunteer adults applying for or holding 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 welfare of a child or having direct volunteer contact with children are required to obtain child abuse clearances. A few examples:
  – Chaperones for schools
  – Church Sunday school teachers
  – Little League coaches
  – Boy/Girl Scout Leaders

WHERE DO I REQUEST CLEARANCES?

GO TO www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis TO GET YOUR PA CHILD ABUSE CLEARANCE

The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Portal is a secure government website that will allow you to apply and/or verify your clearance status online. Paper submissions are acceptable for anyone who may not have access to the internet.

GO TO www.epatch.state.pa.us TO GET YOUR PA STATE POLICE CLEARANCE

You may request your clearance through the PA State Police web-based computer application called Pennsylvania Access To Criminal History (PATCH) by going online or downloading a Request Form.

GO TO www.pa.cogentid.com TO GET YOUR FBI CRIMINAL HISTORY CLEARANCE

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services is utilizing Cogent Systems to process fingerprint-based FBI criminal background checks. For more information and to begin the registration process, go to https://pacogentid.3m.com/index.htm