

NONCRIMINAL JUSTICE APPLICANT'S PRIVACY RIGHTS

As an applicant who is the subject of a national fingerprint-based criminal history record check for a noncriminal justice purpose (such as an application for employment or a license, an immigration or naturalization matter, security clearance, or adoption), you have certain rights which are discussed below.

- You must be provided written notification¹ that your fingerprints will be used to check the criminal history records of the FBI.
- You must be provided, and acknowledge receipt of, an adequate Privacy Act Statement when you submit your fingerprints and associated personal information. This Privacy Act Statement should explain the authority for collecting your information and how your information will be used, retained, and shared.²
- If you have a criminal history record, the officials making a determination of your suitability for the employment, license, or other benefit must provide you the opportunity to complete or challenge the accuracy of the information in the record.
- The officials must advise you that the procedures for obtaining a change, correction, or update of your criminal history record are set forth at Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 16.34.
- If you have a criminal history record, you should be afforded a reasonable amount of time to correct or complete the record (or decline to do so) before the officials deny you the employment, license, or other benefit based on information in the criminal history record.³

You have the right to expect that officials receiving the results of the criminal history record check will use it only for authorized purposes and will not retain or disseminate it in violation of federal statute, regulation or executive order, or rule, procedure or standard established by the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Council.⁴

If agency policy permits, the officials may provide you with a copy of your FBI criminal history record for review and possible challenge. If agency policy does not permit it to provide you a copy of the record, you may obtain a copy of the record by submitting fingerprints and a fee to the FBI. Information regarding this process may be obtained at <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks>

If you decide to challenge the accuracy or completeness of your FBI criminal history record, you should send your challenge to the agency that contributed the questioned information to the FBI. Alternatively, you may send your challenge directly to the FBI. The FBI will then forward your challenge to the agency that contributed the questioned information and request the agency to verify or correct the challenged entry. Upon receipt of an official communication from that agency, the FBI will make any necessary changes/corrections to your record in accordance with the information supplied by that agency. (See 28 CFR 16.30 through 16.34.)

¹ Written notification includes electronic notification, but excludes oral notification.

² <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/compact-council/privacy-act-statement>

³ See 28 CFR 50.12(b).

⁴ See 5 U.S.C. 552a(b); 28 U.S.C. 534(b); 42 U.S.C. 14616, Article IV(c); 28 CFR 20.21(c); 20.33(d); and 906.2(d).

AGENCY PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS FOR NONCRIMINAL JUSTICE APPLICANTS

Authorized governmental and non-governmental agencies/officials that conduct a national fingerprint-based criminal history record check on an applicant for a noncriminal justice purpose (such as employment or a license, immigration or naturalization matter, security clearance, or adoption) are obligated to ensure the applicant is provided certain notice and other information and that the results of the check are handled in a manner that protects the applicant's privacy. These obligations are pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974, Title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 552a, and Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 50.12, among other authorities.

- Officials must provide to the applicant written notification¹ that his/her fingerprints will be used to check the criminal history records of the FBI.
- Officials must ensure that an applicant receives, and acknowledges receipt of, an adequate Privacy Act Statement when the applicant submits his/her fingerprints and associated personal information.²
- Officials using the FBI criminal history record (if one exists) to make a determination of the applicant's suitability for the employment, license, or other benefit must provide the applicant the opportunity to complete or challenge the accuracy of the information in the record.
- Officials must advise the applicant that procedures for obtaining a change, correction, or update of an FBI criminal history record are set forth at 28 CFR 16.34.
- Officials should not deny the employment, license, or other benefit based on information in the criminal history record until the applicant has been afforded a reasonable time to correct or complete the record or has declined to do so.
- Officials must use the criminal history record solely for the purpose requested and cannot disseminate the record outside the receiving department, related agency, or other authorized entity.³

The FBI has no objection to officials providing a copy of the applicant's FBI criminal history record to the applicant for review and possible challenge when the record was obtained based on positive fingerprint identification. If agency policy permits, this courtesy will save the applicant the time and additional FBI fee to obtain his/her record directly from the FBI by following the procedures found at 28 CFR 16.30 through 16.34. It will also allow the officials to make a more timely determination of the applicant's suitability.

Each agency should establish and document the process/procedures it utilizes for how/when it gives the applicant notice, what constitutes "a reasonable time" for the applicant to correct or complete the record, and any applicant appeal process that is afforded the applicant. Such documentation will assist State and/or FBI auditors during periodic compliance reviews on use of criminal history records for noncriminal justice purposes.

¹ Written notification includes electronic notification, but excludes oral notification.

² See <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/compact-council/privacy-act-statement>

³ See 5 U.S.C. 552a(b); 28 U.S.C. 534(b); 42 U.S.C. 14616, Article IV(c); 28 CFR 20.21(c), 20.33(d), 50.12(b) and 906.2(d).