

Fingerprinting: A Charter School Guide

SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

The material contained in this presentation is for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to be and should not be considered legal advice. Charter schools should consult their own legal counsel for further information and advice.

Who Must Be Fingerprinted?

- All Employees Regardless of Position
- Contractors, Subcontractors, Vendors, or Their Employees [Unless exempted per A.R.S. §15-512(H)]
- Instructional/Non-Instructional Volunteers
 [Unless exempted per A.R.S. §§15-183(C) or 15-512(A)]
- Governing Body Members [Required by charter contract]





Fingerprinting Processes

- ➤ A.R.S. §15-183(C)(5) Provides for Two Processes Based on Individual's Position
 - Fingerprint clearance card (FCC)
 - Fingerprint check
- Two Processes Provide Schools Flexibility
- ➤ Law Amended in 2014 to Allow Schools to Require All Personnel Obtain FCCs Regardless of Position

Fingerprint Clearance Cards

> Following Individuals Must Obtain FCCs

- Teacher/Instructional Aides/Substitutes
- Principals/Administrators
- > Therapists
- Contractors, Subcontractors and Vendors
- Student Teachers and Contracted Tutors
 (Must obtain before they participate in field experience in which services will be provided directly to pupils)

Specific Exceptions in Statute

Instructional volunteers and guest speakers (Exception applies only if they are accompanied in classroom by person with a valid FCC)



Fingerprint Clearance Cards

- Who Determines Employability?
 - > DPS determines whether individual qualifies
 - FBI and state criminal records reviewed
- How Often Must Process Be Completed?
 - > FCCs currently issued for six years
 - Must renew prior to expiration date on FCC



Contractors and Vendors

> Statute Establishes FCC Requirement

Applies to <u>non-instructional</u> contractors, subcontractors, vendors or their employees that are contracted to provide services on a regular basis at an individual school

Governing Board Policy Adoption

- Governing board shall adopt policies to exempt persons who, as part of their normal job duties, are not likely to have independent access to or unsupervised contact with pupils
- ➤ Please see A.R.S. §15-512(H) for specifics



Fingerprint Checks

- > Fingerprint Check Applies to:
 - Individuals not required to obtain FCC
 - Non-instructional volunteers who are required or allowed to provide services directly to pupils without supervision of certificated employees (Exception provided for volunteers who are parents/guardians of school pupils)
 - Governing body members
- A.R.S. §15-512(G) permits, in certain cases, school to fingerprint check or require a FCC for anyone not otherwise required to be fingerprinted

Fingerprint Checks

- Who Determines Employability?
 - School after reviewing results from DPS
 - > DPS completes check of FBI and state criminal records
- How Often Must Process Be Completed?
 - Required to be completed once (at time the person is hired), but must retain documentation
 - May run check as often as school wants



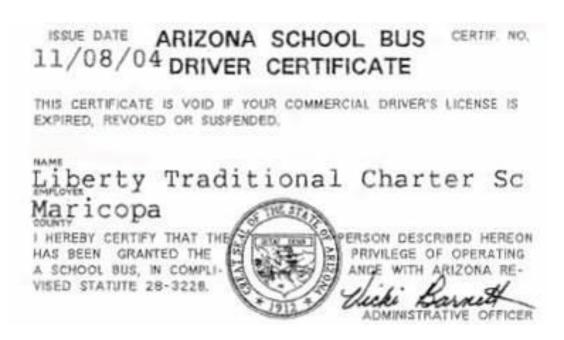
Fingerprint Checks – "ORI Number"

- Issued by DPS to School
 - First step for obtaining an ORI number is to complete and submit "Application for Access" available at the website included below
- Unique Identifier Used by DPS to Ensure Individual's State/FBI Results Sent to Correct Entity
- For More Information or Questions
 - www.azdps.gov/Services/NCJA/Access/
 - NCJA@azdps.gov or (602) 223-2488



School Bus Drivers

- Must Possess Arizona School Bus Driver Certificate (see redacted example)
- > DPS Process Includes a Fingerprint Check
- Once Certified, Applicant Issued Card
 - Card valid ONLY if employer information is correct
 - New employer should notify DPS who will reissue card if individual still in compliance
- "School Bus" Defined in A.R.S. §28-101





"IVP" Reminder (A.R.S. §15-106)

- Identity Verified Prints (IVP) Required:
 - When applying for fingerprint clearance card
 - When obtaining fingerprint check:
 - Fingerprint roll card submitted to DPS
 - School retains documentation showing fingerprints were identity verified.
- DPS Developed Guidance





Online Submission of FCC Application

- ➤ In March 2016, DPS Began Accepting Electronically Submitted FCC Applications
 - > Individuals must currently reside in Arizona to submit online
 - > Individuals residing outside of Arizona must use paper form
- http://fieldprintarizona.com/
 - > Initial or renewal applications may be submitted online
 - For both, individual sets up account and completes application
 - For initial, appointment must be scheduled for prints to be scanned
 - "Convenience fee" charged in addition to FCC application fee



"Emergency Hires"

- May Hire Staff Prior to Obtaining FCC, However, School Must Complete All of the Following:
 - 1. Obtain proof of IVP FCC application's submission to DPS
 - Must retain copy of person's application (paper submissions) or email person received from DPS identifying the application number (online submissions)
 - Compare person's hire date to date entered by fingerprint technician on application (paper submissions) or to date of the DPS email (online submissions)
 - 2. Document necessity to hire/place person before FCC received
 - 3. Ensure DPS completes statewide criminal records check
 - School must have an ORI number in order to run this check



"Emergency Hires" (Continued)

- May Hire Staff Prior to Obtaining FCC, However, School Must Complete All of the Following:
 - 4. Obtain references from current/previous employers
 - 5. Complete search of criminal records in all local jurisdictions outside of Arizona where person has lived in previous 5 years
 - 6. Provide general supervision until FCC is obtained
 - 7. Verify fingerprint status of person with DPS
 - DPS website may be used to determination application/FCC status
 - https://webapps.azdps.gov/public_inq_acct/acct/ShowClearanceCardStatus.action



"Emergency Hires" (Continued)

- > Applies to New Hires Only, Not Renewals
- Additional Resources
 - > A.R.S. §15-183(C)(5)
 - Board's website
 - > Fingerprinting guidance for emergency hires (updated June 2016)
 - > Sample fingerprinting statement of assurance (updated June 2016)



"Emergency Hires" – Common Mistakes

- After Application Submitted, School Fails to Followup to Ensure It Was Received and Processed by DPS
- > DPS Must Complete Statewide Criminal Records Check
- Documentation Not Retained to Support School's Completion of Each Step





Use of Expired FCCs

- ➤ Law Permits Use of Expired FCC to Satisfy Statutory Fingerprinting Requirements If Affidavit Signed
- ➤ Under A.R.S. §41-1758.08, Affidavit Must Indicate:
 - ➤ He or she has submitted a completed application to the Fingerprinting Division of DPS for a new FCC within 90 days before the expiration date on his or her FCC; and
 - ➤ He or she is not awaiting trial on and has not been convicted of a criminal offense that would make him or her ineligible for a FCC.



Use of Expired FCCs

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- Excludes Persons with FCCs that Have Been Denied, Suspended or Revoked by DPS
 - Use DPS website to determine FCC status (see slide 14)
- Excludes Persons Who Have Requested a Good Cause Exception Hearing
 - Board of Fingerprinting (https://fingerprint.az.gov/)
- Guidance and Sample Affidavit on Board's Website

Rejected Fingerprints (FCC Process)

- ➤ If the Individual's Fingerprints Are Rejected,
 DPS Will Send a Letter to the Individual
 - "Pending State or FBI Reprint" status on DPS website
- Reprints Must Be Rolled on a Paper Card and Cannot Be Submitted through Online Process
 - ➤ The DPS letter includes section that must be completed by fingerprint technician and submitted with paper roll card



Fingerprinting Reminders

- No Substitutes for FCCs
 - Not even other states' teacher fingerprint cards
- Substitutes for 15-512 Fingerprint Check
 - None, except for school bus drivers who have a valid Arizona School Bus Driver Certificate issued by DPS
- No Fingerprinting Exception Based Upon Time of Day Employee Works



Fingerprinting Reminders

- FCCs Expire and Must Be Renewed
 - Cards currently issued for six years
 - > Application may be submitted up to 6 months before expiration
 - Schools urged to establish mechanism to track FCC expiration dates for their staff and to consider a back-up plan
- Employees Must Let Charter School Know If Their FCCs May Be In Jeopardy
 - > For additional information, see A.R.S. §15-183(C)(8)-(9)

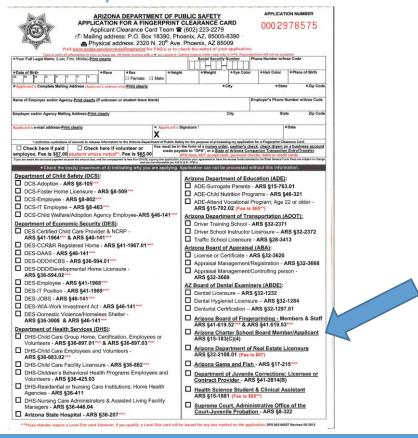


FCC Application: IVP & Regular/Non-IVP

IVP APPLICATION



REGULAR/NON-IVP APPLICATION





Fingerprinting Compliance

- Civil Penalties
 - > A.R.S. §15-185(I)
 - Board policy statement
- Compliance Monitored Through:
 - Annual audits
 - Site visits

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- Complaints
- Operational Dashboard



Fingerprinting Compliance Reminders

- Obtain and Maintain Copies of FCCs & Certificates
 - Do not accept copies from employees, substitute teachers, or other individuals required to have a valid FCC
 - > Do not accept copies of Arizona School Bus Driver Certificates
 - Make your own copies from the laminated cards
- > Fingerprint Check Documentation
 - Must adhere to strict privacy and security requirements
 - Modify "DPS Results" sheet before you share with audit firm or ASBCS staff



Fingerprinting Resources and Links



Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

https://asbcs.az.gov/school-resources/additional-resources/fingerprinting-faq



Arizona Department of Public Safety

http://www.azdps.gov/Services/Fingerprint/

http://www.azdps.gov/Services/NCJA

http://studenttransportation.azdps.gov/

https://webapps.azdps.gov/public_inq_acct/acct/ShowClearanceCardStatus.action



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Arizona Revised Statutes and Arizona Legislature

http://www.azleg.gov/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp

http://www.azleg.gov/