

# All Background Checks Are Not Created Equal



## How to know what you're paying for.

### Have you been paying around \$2 or less for volunteer background checks?

If so, you're probably not getting a bargain. More than likely, you're getting the short end of the stick.

For years, many providers have sold volunteer programs low quality database checks. If your check is instant or costs almost nothing, your check is almost certainly a "Nationwide" database search or "Super Search." These terms sound great, but unfortunately they're not. They depend on county or state jurisdictions to report their data. There are no rules around reporting, so only some local jurisdictions report data while others wait many months before reporting. Long story short, the data has huge holes and gaps and, if you are relying solely on these searches, you are likely missing critical information or relying on inaccurate information.

Receiving a sex offender search inside your "Nationwide" or "Super Search"? You are likely getting a database "50 State Sex Offender" search. Again, this includes stale information – 30-60 days old. When you're talking about the safety of your constituents, you want real-time data.

### So what do you need?

Start with county and state searches and consider a robust search of every county/state the volunteer has lived in. Then, yes, you DO want to run a "Nationwide" database search. That's because people commit crimes outside of where they live. But make sure it is a validated nationwide search. The difference between this validated search and the "Nationwide" search we described is that anything that is found on the search is validated at the primary source jurisdiction for up-to-date, accurate information. Your screening vendor should always go back to the county or state courthouse to get the real story. And when it comes to sex offender searches, the 50 State Department of Justice Sex Offender (Dru Sjodin) search is the only accurate source. Make sure you are receiving Dru Sjodin.

Due diligence takes a little bit of time and money but, when it comes to background screening, you get what you pay for.

### Ask the tough questions

- + Why do my results come back so quickly?
- + What jurisdictions does your database cover in my region, specifically my county and state?
- + Are you going to the primary source – the courthouse?
- + Are my results compliant with the FCRA?

**Vendor FCRA compliance, data accuracy, and safety are all at stake.**

## The Verified Volunteers Difference

### Monthly Updates and Alerts

Volunteer information is updated for you free of charge each month for the first year so you have the added security of monitoring your volunteers for new criminal records.

### Flexible Payment Options and Contributions

Our flexible payment options allow you to pass on all, some or none of the background check cost to your volunteers.

### Outstanding Volunteer Experience

Our secure and easy-to-use platform creates for a great user experience that allows your volunteers to complete the order process efficiently.

### Quality of Service

Our dedicated Advocates Team is there when you need them to ensure the simplest, most effective experience for you and your volunteers.

### Continuous Innovation

We ask for client feedback often – and use that feedback to enhance our platform and services regularly.

## About Us

Verified Volunteers helps nonprofit organizations gain confidence in the volunteers working with those they serve by delivering thorough, compliant background checks. By enabling volunteers to order, manage and share their background checks via a secure online platform, we create a community of vetted volunteers and help nonprofit organizations save time and money. Our extensive expertise in screening and compliance best practices help clients recruit the best volunteers in order to maintain a safe environment and positive reputation. Verified Volunteers is backed by Sterling Talent Solutions, one of the world's largest background screening companies, and partnered with Points of Light, the world's largest organization dedicated to volunteer service.

Visit [www.verifiedvolunteers.com](http://www.verifiedvolunteers.com).

To learn more, contact:

*In Partnership with*

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