

Safe Mentoring Initiative Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Do I have to use this to get criminal history background checks on potential mentors?

No. This is not a mandatory program. If you decide to use this process to get CHB information, then your program must follow all of the protocols.

2. How much does this cost?

The cost is \$75.00 per mentor or employee background check.

3. Does this apply only to NYS?

Yes, this is applicable to NYS programs only.

4. How is this program better than the others (Safety Net, FBI?)

It may not be better, but it is driven by finger prints rather than names, which may have aliases. It may also dig deeper into NY State data and information than others.

5. Will my program receive finger print card?

Yes, once your application has been approved, OCFS will send you a supply of finger print cards.

6. Who is DCJS?

DCJS is the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, and they do the finger print criminal history background check. Then they will send the findings to OCFS who will notify the program of the findings.

7. Suppose someone has some criminal history in their background. Does that automatically disqualify them?

No it does not automatically disqualify them. You must make a decision as to whether you still want to work with or hire them. You must also inform parents or guardians of the decision results, and they can decide if they want the person to be a mentor of employee despite the finding of the CH background check. Persons with sexual offenses and certain other felony charges cannot be employed or used as mentors whether the parent approves or not.