Franklin West Supervisory Union

Volunteer Criminal Background Checks Policy

Warning: November 17, 2010
Adopted: March 23, 2011
Revised: Sept 24, 2015

Policy

In order to protect our students from potential abuse or exploitation, Franklin West Supervisory Union will conduct a Vermont criminal record check through the Vermont Criminal Information Center (VCIC), to screen all individuals interested in volunteering in our schools.

No individual subject to a criminal record check shall be eligible to serve (or continue to serve) as a volunteer if they have been convicted of one or more of the following crimes (taken from 16 V.S.A. §§ 252 and 1698). The decision of the Superintendent in these matters shall be final:

- Sex offender crimes listed in 13 V.S.A. § 5401(10) (sex offender definition for registration purposes):
- Crimes involving a victim listed in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(7)
- Contributing to juvenile delinquency under 13 V.S.A. § 1301
- Cruelty to children under 13 V.S.A. § 1304
- Cruelty by person having custody under 13 V.S.A. § 1305
- Prohibited acts under 13 V.S.A. §§ 2632 and 2635
- Displaying obscene materials to minors under 13 V.S.A. § 2804b
- Sexual exploitation of children under 13 V.S.A. chapter 64
- Drug sales, including selling or dispensing under 18 V.S.A. §§ 4230(b), 4231(b), 4232(b), 4233(b), 4234(b), 4234a, 4234b, 4235(c), 4235a(b), and 4237
- Sexual activity by a caregiver, under 33 V.S.A. § 6902(D)
- Crimes that are cause for licensing actions listed in 16 V.S.A. § 1698(1)(B)-(D)

The list of disqualifying crimes is not meant to be exhaustive. For convictions not listed, eligibility to volunteer shall be considered on a case-by-case basis. The totality of the crimes and when the conviction occurred shall also be considered when determining eligibility to volunteer. Crimes committed within the past three years will automatically disqualify the individual from volunteering in any capacity.

Volunteers convicted of a DUI may not at any time drive students for any school event under any circumstances.

In addition to the above disqualifications, it is the discretion of the Superintendent/Principal/ Director/Designee to accept or not accept specific individuals as volunteers, and all decisions related to the continuation of a volunteer’s service. Appeals may be made directly to the FWSU Board Personnel Committee whose decision shall be final.