



Indian Falls Creek Baptist Assembly

July 30 – August 3, 2023

BACKGROUND CHECK UPDATE

Each church's background checks will be reviewed at registration. This policy is now standard at all Falls Creek camps throughout the summer.

Regardless of which background check company that is used, the background check must meet the following requirements:

1. The check has been run in the past 18 months.
2. The check has been run by the church, by the association of churches, or a ministry group the church belongs to **(As an example of won't work - we will not accept a background check from the school where someone works as a teacher).**
3. The check has been run using the correct legal name of the individual. **(This seems obvious, but it's an issue pretty much every week at camp, usually due to typos.)**
4. The check includes 4 elements:
 - a. National background search
 - b. National sex offender search
 - c. Statewide or county criminal search
 - d. SSN Verification or Trace

IMPORTANT

Although we have issues with each of the first 3 above, **# 4 is what causes the most confusion** for churches. Part of the confusion is caused by the background check company themselves. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THE CHECKS COVER EACH ELEMENT.**

Element 4(c) is probably the most missed element. Many individuals assume a national search is sufficient. Unfortunately, Oklahoma is one of the states where it is not sufficient to run a national check, because of the delayed or non-reporting by counties in Oklahoma. Thus, we require either a statewide search or county search.

We let the church decide whether they run a county or statewide search **BUT** it is a more thorough search. A large majority of background checks that show an offense on the statewide area of the background check report, do not show the offense in the national search. That is due to the offense never having been reported to the national database.

Element 4(d) is probably the next most commonly missed element. It is used to make sure people don't use fake SSN to avoid detection on the criminal searches.

We specifically ask churches not to use background checks from county sheriff departments or the OSBI. Those searches have their uses, for sure. But they are not broad enough in their scope. Also, for the value they provide, they are much too expensive.