

# Keeping Our Kids Safe

Dear Volunteer,

Glad Tidings Assembly of God values you and your commitment to minister to our children. It has been, and is always, our desire to be a safe place for children to come and learn how they can be a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. The Pennsylvania Legislature adopted many important changes to the requirements for background clearances for volunteers and employees that are in contact with children. It is our goal to provide you with the necessary information so you can be in compliance with the laws of our state, and continue your ministry for Christ.

As a volunteer in contact with children, you will now need to have 3 different clearances as a part of the new PA mandated filing regulations:

- 1. Clearance from the PA Child Welfare (Free for volunteer)
- 2. Clearance from the PA Criminal History (Free for volunteer)
- 3. FBI Fingerprint Clearance or Notarized Affidavit if you have been a PA resident for the past 10 years consecutively. (fees are stated by the provider)

If you have received these clearances through your employer or another volunteer agency, you can submit copies to the church office. Otherwise, you will need to make application for all of these. The websites listed below are provided to help you complete this process, and answer any further questions you may have. If you do not have access to a computer, there are paper copies available for you in the office.

**PA Child Welfare Information:** <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

- Online Application for clearance

**PA State Police Access to Criminal History:** <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>

- Online Application for clearance

**Keep Kids Safe:** <http://www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov/>

- Website providing important information regarding the new PA regulations and definitions of child abuse.
- Offers forms for reporting

**FBI Fingerprint Registration & Information:**

<http://www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov/resources/clearances/ServiceCodeForms/index.htm>

- Required if you have not been a PA resident for the last 10 years consecutively
- Required for employees (Affidavits are not acceptable)
- Appointments must be made online (nearest CenClear locations are Bigler or DuBois)
- Payment can be made at CenClear