

# WHAT TO EXPECT - A GUIDE TO COMPLETING REQUIRED BACKGROUND CHECKS

Welcome to Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA)! As required by PA law and in accordance with SOPA policy, you will need to complete background checks in order to become or remain a volunteer. Here are the steps to follow below, or download the steps as a [PDF](#):

*Please Note: Volunteers that are **17 years of age and under** do not need to complete the below-mentioned background steps. Please complete, print and mail our [online volunteer form](#) to your SOPA [local program](#).*

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## STEP #1:

Print and complete the [PA Disclosure Statement](#) and return it to the address provided on the form. Don't forget to obtain a witness signature.

*If you cannot attest to all of the statements, please cross it/them out, complete and return as instructed. **If you have not lived in PA for the past 10 consecutive years, an FBI Fingerprint Criminal History Record is required by law.** [Click here](#) to find locations to support this requirement. Once you have received the results, bring the original report to your [local program](#). They will make a copy for SOPA's records. Any questions? Please contact [ClassAPAVolunteerDisclosureStatement@SpecialOlympicsPA.org](mailto:ClassAPAVolunteerDisclosureStatement@SpecialOlympicsPA.org).*

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## STEP #2:

Look for an email from [TheAdvocates@VerifiedVolunteers.com](mailto:TheAdvocates@VerifiedVolunteers.com) (SOPA's background check vendor). **Open and take action within 72 hours.** Here is an [example](#) of what that email will look like.

*Any questions? Please contact [SpecialOSupport@VerifiedVolunteers.com](mailto:SpecialOSupport@VerifiedVolunteers.com).*

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## STEP #3:

Look for an email from [ARSupport@VerifiedVolunteers.com](mailto:ARSupport@VerifiedVolunteers.com) (Verified Volunteers' PA Child Abuse processing department). **The provided code in RED MUST BE USED to complete SOPA's background check process. Open and take action within 72 hours** of receipt. Here is an [example](#) of what that email will look like.

*Insert the **RED** code at the end of the COMPASS online application process. "Keystone ID" on the PA Child Abuse website is a username that you will create to login and complete the process. Any questions or technical issues? Please contact their Help Line at 1-877-343-0494 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. When all of the steps are completed, you will receive a "Congratulations" email from Verified Volunteers! Here is an [example](#) of what that email will look like.*

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**Have a wonderful, fulfilling experience supporting SOPA's athletes and thank you for making it all happen!**

If you have questions about the status of your application after completing the above-mentioned steps, please contact your [local program](#). Provided none of your background check information changes, your clearances will be good for a total of 5 years.