



Frequently Asked Questions – Background Checks

What are the required searches to work with minors in Pennsylvania?

Pennsylvania State Criminal Search (PATCH),
Pennsylvania Child Abuse Search, and
FBI Criminal History Search.

Why do employees, faculty, staff, and students have to complete these searches?

The three-part clearance process is part of Pennsylvania’s Child Protective Service Laws, known as PA-Act 153. This state statute requires all employees and volunteers with “a significant likelihood of regular contact with children, in the form of care, guidance, supervision or training” to be compliant with the three-part clearances. The University of Pennsylvania strictly enforces this statute.

Who is responsible for conducting my background checks?

As stated in the University of Pennsylvania policy [Protecting Minors on Campus Policy \(upenn.edu\)](#), all background checks, valid for the purpose of employment, must be issued by Central Human Resources. The university will not accept previously issued state searches (PATCH and PA Child