

# **PENNSYLVANIA STATE LAW REQUIRED CLEARANCES AND TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS AT VARHA**

**Requirements 1-3 apply to every adult, age 18 or older, to volunteer in Pennsylvania. Requirements 4 and 5 apply to EVERY VOLUNTEER, regardless of age. You cannot serve as a volunteer at VARHA without completing requirements that apply to you.**

## **1. PA ACT 113 (PA CHILD ABUSE HISTORY CLEARANCE, FOR ALL ADULTS 18+)**

There are two options for completing your PA Child Abuse History Clearance: Online or By Mail. Online is much faster and strongly encouraged. For both options, you will need the following information:

- Addresses where you have previously lived; partial addresses are acceptable;
- Names of all individuals with whom you have lived to include parents, guardians, siblings, spouses, etc.
- Any previous names you have used or have been known by
- \$0 application fee, an amendment made applications for volunteers free of charge.

### **1a. PA ACT 113 ONLINE INSTRUCTIONS (RECOMMENDED METHOD)**

Visit: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS/Public/Home>

Click on "CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT" and scroll to the bottom of the next page and click Next. Fill in the necessary information. You will be emailed a temporary password from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; copy and paste the temporary password to log in. Go back to the link above and click "Log In," then click "Access My Clearances." On the "Learn More" page that will be displayed, scroll down to bottom right and click "Continue." Log in with your temporary password and change your password to a password known only to you. Log in again with your own chosen password. Read "Terms and Conditions," and click "I have read and fully understand and agree to the My Child Welfare Account Terms and Conditions." Click "Next" button on bottom right of page. Review the "Learn More" page. When ready, click "Continue" at the bottom right and create your Clearance Application. When finished completing this online application, you may be presented with immediate clearance history results. Save this clearance history report (a PDF file). You will also receive this same clearance history report by mail.

### **1b. PA ACT 113 BY MAIL INSTRUCTIONS (TAKES 4-6 WEEKS)**

Visit: [http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/form/s\\_001762.pdf](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/form/s_001762.pdf)

Download and complete the CY 113 CHILD ABUSE HISTORY CLEARANCE FORM, mail it to the address indicated, and wait for the results to be mailed back to you. It may take 4-6 weeks to receive your clearance history report by mail. Please be sure to make a photocopy of the completed form along with the receipt for any payment sent with the form. On this form the appropriate box to check for Purpose of Clearance is "Volunteer".

## **2. PA ACT 34 (PA CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK, FOR ALL ADULTS 18+)**

There are two options for completing your PA Criminal Record Check Report: Online or By Mail. It is highly recommended that you complete this application online as you will receive your results instantly.

### **2a.PA ACT 34 ONLINE INSTRUCTIONS (RECOMMENDED METHOD)**

Visit: <https://epatch.state.pa.us/RecordCheckHome.jsp>. At the top of the page, select "Record Check" then "New Record Check". When completing the form, answer "For Reason: Volunteer." When completed, click on the "Certification Form" button and print and save the results page with the state seal watermark.

### **2b.PA ACT 34 BY MAIL INSTRUCTIONS (TAKES 4-6 WEEKS)**

Visit: <https://epatch.state.pa.us/RecordCheckHome.jsp>. If you are unable to complete the online Criminal Record Check, you may fill out a printed copy of this form and mail it to the appropriate address listed on the form. It may take 4-6 weeks to receive your record check letter.

## **3. PA ACT 153(FEDERAL CRIMINAL HISTORY FINGERPRINTING, FOR ADULTS 18+ WHO HAVE LIVED OUT OF STATE AT ANY TIME DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS)**

### **3a. ADULT VOLUNTEERS RESIDING IN PA FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS**

If you are an unpaid volunteer over the age of 18 who has resided in the state of Pennsylvania for the past 10 years, you may but are not required to complete Federal Criminal History Fingerprinting. However, you must still complete the attached VARHA form swearing that you have not been convicted of a criminal offense that would otherwise disqualify you from working with children.

### **3b. ADULT VOLUNTEERS RESIDING OUTSIDE OF PA AT ANYTIME IN PAST 10 YEARS**

Visit: [www.pa.cogentid.com](http://www.pa.cogentid.com). Select the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) link.

Do NOT select the PA Dept of Education link. Read all instructions very carefully. All applicants MUST register at this website or by phone at 1888-439-2486 prior to visiting an approved fingerprinting location to have your fingers printed. Applicants are required to pay a one-time fee of \$27.50, either online by credit card, or at the fingerprinting site by money order or cashier's check. Print, save, and take your application receipt to an approved fingerprinting location. Approved fingerprinting locations can be found by visiting:

[https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index\\_dpwNew.htm](https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_dpwNew.htm)

You will receive your Federal Criminal History Clearance letter by postal mail within a few weeks of having your fingers printed. For people with dry or cracked fingertips, you may be asked to return to be printed again – don't be alarmed if this happens; they are just trying to get readable prints.

## **SUBMIT ELECTRONIC OR PAPER COPIES OF ALL CLEARANCES, TRAINING CERTIFICATE, AND SIGNED STATEMENT TO VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**

You must submit copies of all required PA and Federal Clearance Reports that apply to you, as well as your Mandated Reporter Training Certificate and one of the following forms to the VARHA Volunteer Coordinator. You may also bring paper copies to training or your first volunteer shift, but remember that you cannot volunteer without completing the requirements that apply to you.

\*If you already have clearance reports (steps 1-3) that you purchased for yourself within the past year, copies of these reports may be submitted to VARHA. However, by state law, if your clearance reports were paid for by an employer or another agency, you must obtain new clearance reports for VARHA.

**All VARHA Volunteers over the age of 18 must complete one of the following forms, as applicable.**

Signed Statement for VARHA Volunteers (ages 18+) subject to Requirement #3a

In compliance with the Federal Clearance requirement (6344(b) (3)) in PA House Bill 1276 and Act 153, I \_\_\_\_\_ do affirm that I resided within Pennsylvania for the entire past ten years. I swear and affirm that I am not disqualified from service pursuant to section 6344(c) and have not been convicted of an offense similar in nature to crimes listed in section 6344(c). I am applying to participate as an unpaid volunteer in the VARHA program and will obtain my ACT 113 (CHILD ABUSE HISTORY CLEARANCE) and ACT 34 (CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK) and will complete the Mandated Reporter Training online and bring records of all of these actions to the Volunteer Coordinator at VARHA before assisting riders with lessons, camps, etc., at VARHA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

.....OR.....

Signed Statement for VARHA Volunteers (ages 18+) subject to Requirement #3b

In compliance with the Federal Clearance requirement (6344(b)(3)) in PA House Bill 1276 and Act 153, I \_\_\_\_\_ do affirm that I resided outside of Pennsylvania at some time during the past ten years. I am applying to participate as an unpaid volunteer at VARHA and will obtain my ACT 113 (CHILD ABUSE HISTORY CLEARANCE), ACT 34 (CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK), and FBI FEDERAL CRIMINAL HISTORY FINGERPRINTING) and will complete the Mandated Reporter Training online and bring records of all of these actions to the Volunteer Coordinator at VARHA before assisting riders with lessons, camps, etc., at VARHA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)