Plainfield Optimist Club
Criminal Background Checks Policy

The Plainfield Optimist Club ("Club") requires background screening to be completed on all volunteers who will be interacting with the youth participants in the Club activities. Unwillingness to consent to the background study will result in the inability of the volunteer to participate in any Club program that involves ongoing contact with our youth participants. Results of the background studies are confidential and are shared only on a need-to-know basis.

Volunteers will not be able to start working with youth participants until the background check clearance has been received by the Club.

PURPOSE

- To provide increased safety for participants of Club programs.
- To reduce risk to the Club.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. The volunteer will be required to complete the documentation required to obtain a criminal background check, which will include a state and national criminal history check.
2. Criminal conviction records are evaluated on an individual basis considering:
    a. The nature of the crime.
    b. The jurisdiction in which the person was convicted.
    c. The date of the conviction.
    d. The penalty imposed, including conditions of probation or conditional release and time periods of the penalty.
    e. The date of release from incarceration, if applicable.
    f. Participation in any rehabilitation programs and completion.
3. The Release Statement must include the person:
    a. Full name.
    b. All prior names and aliases.
    c. Date of birth.
    d. Sex.
4. Prospective volunteers will be notified of the findings of the background check if there is a finding and will be provided with the reason the individual will be precluded from volunteering or any restrictions that will be put in place that will allow for participation in Club volunteer opportunities.
5. The following crimes disqualify persons from volunteering:
    a. All sex offenses-Regardless of the amount of time since the offense.
        - Examples include child molestation, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sodomy, prostitution, solicitation, indecent exposure, etc.
    b. All Felony Violence-Regardless of the amount of time since the offense.
        - Examples include murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, kidnapping, robbery, aggravate burglary, etc.
    c. All felony offensives other than violence or sex within the past 10 years.
        - Examples include drug offenses, theft, embezzlement, fraud, child endangerment, etc.
    d. All misdemeanor violence offensives within the past 7 years.
        - Examples include simple assault, battery, domestic violence, hit and run, etc.
    e. Two or more misdemeanor drug and alcohol offenses within the last 7 years.
        - Examples include driving under the influence, simple drug possession, drunk and disorderly, public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia, etc.
    f. Any other misdemeanor offenses within the past 5 years that would be considered a potential danger to children or is directly related to the function of that volunteer.

Pending Cases: Individuals found to have pending court cases for any of the disqualifying offenses will be disqualified. If the disposition of the pending case does not meet the criteria for the disqualification as listed above, the individual would then be cleared and reinstated.