

Ohio State University Extension Volunteer Selection

Evaluating Criminal Offenses

Statement on Criminal Offenses

Revised Ohio Senate Bill 187 identifies offenses that are to be considered disqualifying for those who desire to work with minors. Ohio State University Extension considers those offenses, and those that are substantially equivalent, as automatically disqualifying when considering an individual's qualifications for working with members of a vulnerable population (minors, elderly over age 65, and individuals with disabilities).

There are likely to be additional criminal offenses, not identified on this list that will surface when conducting criminal fingerprint background checks on potential volunteers. Offenses identified that are not listed as disqualifying offenses must be thoroughly evaluated prior to making a decision concerning a potential volunteer's acceptance into the organization.

Considering Criminal Offenses

As decisions are made concerning individuals who have criminal records, the following information is critical and must be thoroughly evaluated and discussed prior to making any decision. It will be necessary to discuss the facts with the county chair, district specialist, district director, and/or identified representative from your state program area or Extension administration. Extension professionals will consider the following:

- Nature of offense identified
- Time the offense occurred (year) or age when offense occurred
- Parties affected by the offense (minors, elderly, disabled)
- Potential volunteer responsibilities (i.e. relationship to vulnerable populations)
- Relationship of offense to potential responsibilities
- Opportunity to place individual in alternative role (no responsibilities for vulnerable populations)