

Introduction to Live Scan Fingerprinting:

All our volunteers who have any 'regular' interaction with the children in our care must be verified through Live Scan fingerprinting. Effectively, this will touch every background checked volunteer with the exception of those that only help in the administration building or enter the homes for a purpose other than interacting with the children, such as working in the clothing closet. If you think you may fall in a gray area, please ask our volunteer coordinator to clarify.

So how does this impact you?

The Live Scan fingerprinting does last longer than a year. How long has not been clarified by DSS yet. We have been told anywhere from 3 years to 10 years. Thus the \$42.50 investment could have a great payoff and may only be required one time in your HCFC volunteering career. The downside is, it costs \$42.50 on top of the regular numerous background checks we currently do annually and it doesn't release us from continuing to do those annually. Currently the closest location for Live Scan fingerprinting is in Greenville. However, we are working on establishing a couple travel days so that you'll be able to come to Hope Center offices to get this done or another local site. If those dates don't work for you, it's likely you may have to make the trek to Greenville for the foreseeable future.

How is Live Scan Fingerprinting different from a fingerprint card?

Many of you are teachers, bankers and other professions that require fingerprinting as part of employment. Live Scan fingerprinting is a digital database separate of all other types of fingerprint recording that we currently can go to most police departments to do. The federal government holds contracts with private companies to procure this fingerprint database and these companies are the only ones with the appropriate connection and chain of custody to the FBI database required for this process. In South Carolina, this state wide contracted private company is called Idemia. In addition to this, agencies (like Hope Center for Children) are required to have a unique ID code as an entity and provide that in order to have fingerprints taken. Therefore, no one can just go to Idemia without prior authorization and the appropriate information from HCFC.

What does this mean?

Effectively, there is no way to use any past fingerprints for the purpose of volunteering regularly with Hope Center for Children. We can't accept fingerprint cards, nor transfer live scan fingerprinting from another use. Because of the unique entity code, the fingerprints must be requested and processed back to Hope Center for Children.

Why Hope Center for Children?

We are a unique entity when it comes to this law because we are a residential home for foster children. That being said, if continuing with us through this process is not for you but you still want to work with children, our volunteer coordinator may be able to help connect you with agencies that do not have to comply with the Family First Act. However, we look forward to finding ways to engage you through special events, committees, administrative service etc. So perhaps this is simply an opportunity to broaden your horizons in terms of non-profit operation!