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February 19, 2015

Mr. Michael J. Serino, District Administrator  
Little League Baseball, Inc.  
PO Box 436  
Moscow, PA 18444

Dear Mr. Serino,

Thank you for contacting my office regarding what will be required of adult volunteers who work directly with children and youth as a result of Act 153 of 2014.

Act 153 expanded the requirement of background clearances to now include volunteers requiring all prospective and current adult volunteers **“who have direct contact with children or who are responsible for the welfare of a child”** to obtain both criminal background check clearances and child abuse clearances, and to have those clearances recertified every three years. **“Direct Contact with Children” is defined in Act 33 of 2014 as “the care, supervision, guidance or control of children, or routine interaction with children.”** Considering this definition, the intent of Act 153 is not to subject one-time or infrequent volunteers, such as parents who visit school for a career day or as a guest reader, to these volunteer background check requirements. In determining which volunteers will be subject to these requirements, an organization should consider the role of the volunteer and use their best judgment in determining whether that individual has regular direct contact with children or is responsible for the welfare of a child. For those individuals who have resided in PA less than 10 years, only then would all 3 clearances be required, the criminal background, child abuse and the FBI clearance.

In your exact instance, those staff members and employees who work only with other staff, employees and board members are not required to obtain these clearances. The umpire and volunteers who do not regularly have direct contact with the children are not required to obtain these clearances. The coaches and assistants who work with the children on a frequent basis and are responsible for their welfare would need these clearances.

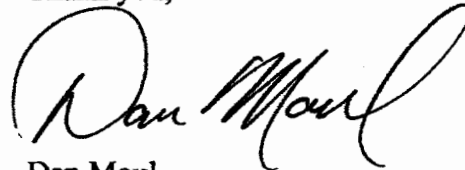
If an existing adult volunteer already has obtained the required clearances prior to July 1, 2015, those clearances will be valid for three years from the time they were most recently certified. If an existing volunteer's clearances are older than three years old, or if they never before obtained clearances, but now will be required to get them, they have until July 1, 2016 to obtain the clearances. Any prospective adult volunteer must have the clearances obtained before beginning volunteer service.

It is important to note that these background clearances are portable, meaning that a prospective or current volunteer who obtains the required clearances can use those same clearances to volunteer in other services, organizations, programs or activities during the length of time that the clearances are valid. You do not have to duplicate this process for each and every volunteer position you hold.

The Department of Human Services (formerly Dept. of Public Welfare) has created a website for additional information and assistance: [www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov](http://www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov). This website also has links to request online background clearances for State Police, Child Abuse History and FBI clearances.

I hope that this information has been helpful. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Moul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dan Moul  
State Representative  
91<sup>st</sup> Legislative District

DPM/cak