



# Virginia Assisted Living Association

*“Virginia’s Unified Voice for Assisted Living”*

To: Virginia General Assembly House Appropriations Committee Members  
Joint Subcommittee to Study Barrier Crimes and Criminal History Records Checks

From: Judy Hackler, Executive Director  
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Re: Barrier Crimes and Criminal History Records Checks

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The Virginia Assisted Living Association (VALA) represents licensed assisted living communities throughout Virginia. We **request the process for conducting criminal history records checks in Virginia to be updated for allowance of more expedited processing methods and times and to provide more flexibility in selecting a criminal history record check service providers to allow for more thorough investigations by employers.**

Virginia’s current requirements of assisted living communities to use the Central Criminal Records Exchange with the Virginia State Police (VSP) limits the information provided to assisted living providers by not providing a federal search and is commonly experiencing delays in processing that impacts the availability of individuals to work. Delaying the availability of potential employees exacerbates a workforce shortage that already exists in the senior living industry. Below are some points of consideration that have often been shared by assisted living providers regarding Virginia’s process for criminal history record checks.

- Many assisted living providers that operate in Virginia operate in other states as well. Providers should have a choice in what service they use for completing background checks to allow them to choose a more comprehensive background check instead of having to pay for multiple services to include the VSP check to get a complete background check. Many providers prefer to have a more thorough background check to include criminal history information from other states, especially for providers that operate near state lines with a higher likelihood of applicants that have worked in other states.
- In comparison to other states, Virginia’s requirements and process for background checks for assisted living providers through the Virginia State Police is antiquated. With the VSP system, just changing the point of contact for each community is a lengthy process where forms are submitted to VSP instead of being an internal control. Sometimes, background checks with the VSP incur months of waiting due to backlogs. We request the system to be updated to eliminate the paper burdens and timeframes.

On behalf of Virginia’s assisted living industry and the many individuals they employ, we thank you for your attention to these concerns. Please let us know if we can provide additional information or be of further assistance regarding this process.