

Qualified Entity Definition

What is a "qualified entity"? Who can obtain criminal history record checks under the National Child Protection Act (NCPA) and Florida statute?

To be qualified to participate in the Volunteer, Employee Criminal History System (VECHS) program, an entity must provide some type of "care" or "care placement services" for children, the elderly, or the disabled, even if only as a limited part of the entity's overall business. Once qualified to participate in the program, an entity may request criminal history information on all current and prospective employees and volunteers, not only those who work with vulnerable persons. A qualified entity may also request criminal history information on contractors and vendors who have or who seek to have unsupervised access to a child to whom the qualified entity provides child care.

"Qualified entities" are authorized to obtain criminal history record information as described under the NCPA and related federal guidelines. Under the NCPA as implemented in Florida law, a "qualified entity" is a business or organization, whether public, private, for profit, not-for-profit, or voluntary, that provides care or care placement services, including a business or organization that licenses or certifies others to provide care or care placement services. "Care" means the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, supervision, or recreation to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities.