



Abbotsford Police Department

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“Protecting with Pride”

POSSIBLE DELAYS FOR POLICE RECORD CHECKS WITH VULNERABLE SECTOR SCREENING

Due to a change implemented by the RCMP in July 2010, individuals applying for a Police Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening through any police agency may experience longer wait times before receiving their completed Police Record Clearance.

Part of the screening process involves checking a database of **pardoned** sexual offences.

Before July 2010 any potential “hit” on this database was based on a close match of the person’s surname and date of birth. Due to changes that came into effect in July if a query of the system does not match a surname the system will now perform a secondary query the date of birth and gender only. If a Police Record Check applicant’s date of birth matches that of a person who may have been pardoned for a sexual offence, we will receive notification that the applicant must submit fingerprints for verification.

The Abbotsford Police Department receives no information on the possible ‘hit’ just that fingerprints must be submitted for verification. We have no information confirming the nature of the match or information on the ‘possible’ pardoned record. If a potential match is found on our initial queries you will be notified by Abbotsford Police department staff on how to proceed with this process.

Since the implementation of these changes in mid-July we have seen a significant increase in required fingerprint submissions.

It is important for the public, agencies and employers to understand that under no circumstance does this notification confirm that the applicant is or is not a pardoned sex offender. In most cases, this ‘possible match’ is ruled out via fingerprints.

We have been advised by the RCMP that the fingerprint submissions that are NOT related to any pardoned record will be returned in approximately 4 weeks. However, some fingerprint submissions can take up to 120 days for verification.

If you are required to obtain fingerprint screening:

- **For employment purposes:** you will be asked to provide a \$25 money order or certified made payable to the “Receiver General for Canada”.
- **For volunteer purposes:** Volunteer work (e.g. Boys and Girls Club). Request must be accompanied by written confirmation from a bona fide registered non-profit organization.

For more information related to vulnerable sector queries please visit <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cr-cj/vulner/index-eng.htm> for fee structure.

***Our Mission:
To make Abbotsford the safest city in BC.***