

FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT (FCRA) DISCLOSURE AND RELEASE DISCLOSURE

Be advised that certain positions within the **Episcopal Diocese of Texas** require a Credit History Check, which will be performed in accordance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

A person who is conditionally offered employment must give voluntary written authorization in order for the Credit History Report to be generated. If a decision is made not to employ because of the report, the person must be provided an “Adverse Action Notice”, which includes:

- a) Name, address, and phone number of the Consumer Reporting Agency (CRA) supplying the report.
- b) The following statement: “The CRA supplying the report did not make the adverse action decision, and
- c) subsequently cannot provide specific reasons for the decision”.
- d) Notice that the person may dispute the accuracy or completeness of the information with the CRA and has the right to an additional free credit report within sixty (60) days.

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas does not waive any immunity it might possess.

RELEASE

The Fair Credit Report Act (FCRA) allows individuals and institutions with a true business need to gain access to the credit histories of other individuals with the individual’s permission. By signing this release, I, (please print name) _____, hereby give permission to the **Episcopal Diocese of Texas** to investigate my credit history for purposes of employment or volunteering with the **Episcopal Diocese of Texas**.

I have read and understood the above Notice and Release, and I sign this Release voluntarily, without coercion or duress from any individual or party.

Signature

Church/School & City where employed/volunteering

Name, printed

Date of Birth

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Social Security Number

Driver’s License Number and State

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO YOUR RECTOR OR HEAD OF SCHOOL OR INSTITUTION. THANK YOU.

FOR CHURCH/SCHOOL REQUESTING MOTOR VEHICULAR HISTORY CHECK

This form is to be used **ONLY** when a credit history check is required. It may be used in conjunction with other background checks obtained for Safeguarding God’s Children/People or separately. Fax the completed form to 713.521.2218 or – preferably – email a scanned copy to ngaspar@epicenter.org. Results will be emailed to you upon receipt, so be sure to include your email address if you use the fax option. The Diocese will not review the results before passing them along to you. It is your responsibility to review and determine action based upon the results.

A Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act

The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) is designed to promote accurate, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of every “consumer reporting agency” (CRA). Most CRAs are credit bureaus that gather and sell information about you – such as if you pay your bills on time or have filed bankruptcy – to creditors, employers, landlords, and other businesses. You can find the complete text of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. 1681-1681u, at the Federal Trade Commission’s website (<http://www.ftc.gov>). The FCRA gives you specific rights, as outlined below. You may have additional rights under state law. You may contact a state or local consumer protection agency or a state attorney general to learn those rights.

- **You must be told if information in your file has been used against you.** Anyone who uses information from a CRA to take action against you – such as denying an application for credit, insurance, or employment – must tell you, and give you the name, address, and phone number of the CRA that provided the consumer report.
- **You can find out what is in your file.** At your request, a CRA must give you the information in your file, and a list of everyone who has requested it recently. There is no charge for the report if a person has taken action against you because of information supplied by the CRA, if you request the report within 60 days of receiving notice of the action. You also are entitled to one free report every twelve months upon request if you certify that (1) you are unemployed and plan to seek employment within 60 days, (2) you are on welfare, or (3) your report is inaccurate due to fraud. Otherwise, CRA may charge you up to eight dollars.
- **You can dispute inaccurate information with the CRA.** If you tell a CRA that your file contains inaccurate information, the CRA must investigate the items (usually within 30 days) by presenting to its information source all relevant evidence you submit, unless your dispute is frivolous. The source must review your evidence and report its findings to the CRA. (The source also must advise national CRA’s – to which it has provided the data – of any error.) The CRA must give you a written report of the investigation, and a copy of your report if the investigation results in any change. If the CRA’s investigation does not resolve the dispute, you may add a brief statement to your file. The CRA must normally include a summary of your statement in future reports. If an item is deleted or a dispute statement is filed, you may ask that anyone who has recently received your report be notified of the change.
- **Inaccurate information must be corrected or deleted.** A CRA must remove or correct inaccurate or unverified information from its files, usually within 30 days after you dispute it. **However, the CRA is not required to remove accurate data from your file unless it is outdated (as described below) or cannot be verified.** If your dispute results in any change to your report, the CRA cannot reinsert into your file a disputed item unless the information source verifies its accuracy and completeness. In addition, the CRA must give you a written notice telling you it has reinserted the item. The notice must include the name, address and phone number of the information source.
- **You can dispute inaccurate items with the source of the information.** If you tell anyone – such as a creditor who reports to a CRA – that you dispute an item, they may not then report the information to a CRA without including a notice of your dispute. In addition, once you’ve notified the source of the error in writing, it may not continue to report the information if it is, in fact, an error.
- **Outdated information may not be reported.** In most cases, a CRA may not report negative information that is more than seven years old; ten years for bankruptcies.
- **Access to your file is limited.** A CRA may provide information about you only to people with a need recognized by the FCRA – usually to consider an application with a creditor, insurer, employer, landlord, or other business.
- **Your consent is required for reports that are provided to employers, or reports that contain medical information.** A CRA may not give out information about you to your employer, or prospective employer, without your written consent. A CRA may not report medical information about you to creditors, insurers, or employers without your permission.
- **You may choose to exclude your name from CRA lists for unsolicited credit and insurance offers.** Creditors and insurers may use file information as the basis for sending you unsolicited offers of credit or insurance. Such offers must include a toll-free phone number for you to call if you want your name and address removed from future lists. If you call, you must be kept off the lists for two years. If you request, complete, and return the CRA form provided for this purpose, you must be taken off the lists indefinitely.
- **You may seek damages from violators.** If a CRA, a user or (in some cases) a provider of CRA data, violates the FCRA, you may sue them in state or federal court. The State of Indiana does not waive any immunities it might possess.

