

## **Ohio PTA Board of Directors Position Statement on Criminal Background Checks for Volunteers**

(Adopted by the Board of Directors at the 7.29.00 Special Meeting)

The Ohio PTA Board of Directors recognizes the importance of safety for children when working with volunteers and therefore has the following position on criminal background checks for volunteers:

- Criminal background checks on volunteers are one method of obtaining information about a record that may exist on an individual that could effect the safety of children.
- Volunteers that represent PTA or PTA programs and work directly with children are encouraged to work within a supervised environment.
- The method of submitting to a background check should be in place in each community and be readily accessible.
- The Ohio PTA will provide its members with information regarding current legislation addressing criminal background checks but will not assume liability for individual volunteers' legal responsibilities.
- The financial responsibility for administering any background check should not negatively impact the volunteer organization or the volunteer activity.
- Confidentiality of all volunteers' personal information must be protected.
- Criminal record checks should be valid for a minimum of one year.
- The state of Ohio should further develop technology that allows the sharing of criminal background information between counties within the state of Ohio and between all states nationally.