

**Background Investigations for Approved Supervisors**  
**Adult Standards – Sex Offender Management Board**  
**February 2015**

Approved Supervisor: a person who can supervise an adult offender's contact with a specified minor child or children. This person is an individual who has met the criteria described in the Standards, has been approved by the CST (Community Supervision Team) and has signed the contract.

In 2011 the Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) revised Adult Standards and Guidelines, including Section 5.770 (Approved Supervisor) and 5.775 (1) (Approved Supervisor Duties and Responsibilities). Since that time, the SOMB has been made aware of several implementation challenges related to citizens attempting to obtain criminal history records for the purposes of becoming an approved supervisor. The SOMB has made several policy revisions to attempt to address this issue and improve the policy; however, these efforts have not significantly improved the ability of citizens to obtain criminal history records in a timely manner. The current policy approved by the SOMB is for potential approved supervisors to obtain their own criminal history information online through the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation), and then subsequently every three years online through CBI (Colorado Bureau of Investigation), at the discretion of the community supervision team (CST). However, the FBI process for a criminal history has demonstrated to take a long time (up to 6 months) to produce results. This is causing significant delays for offenders in obtaining appropriate approved supervisors. The SOMB continues to believe that a national criminal history check is appropriate, given that CBI checks do not include non-Colorado criminal history, even if it is time-consuming and more costly than the CBI criminal history check, but also recognizes the importance of expediency in approving supervisors.

Given the above concerns, the SOMB is again modifying its policy related to criminal history checks for approved supervisors to allow for a more expedited approval process. Citizens interested in being approved supervisors may be tentatively approved by the CST based upon a favorable (according to 5.772) CBI online criminal history check alone or verification of an approved support person through the Department of Corrections, provided that he/she also submits to an FBI online criminal history check. If subsequent results from the FBI indicate a problem, the approved supervisor status could then be removed pursuant to the requirements in the Standards and according to the discretion of the CST. This solution would allow offenders to have approved supervisors much sooner, but would add a cost (approximately \$8.00). It is still acceptable for those citizens not wishing to pay the extra money to submit only the FBI online criminal history check and wait for the results as is stated in the current policy.

The hope is that this change in the current policy will maintain community and victim safety, while still supporting the needs of the offender for positive support via an approved supervisor.

For questions or concerns please contact Cathy Rodriguez, Adult Standards Coordinator at 303-239-4499 or via email at [Cathy.Rodriguez@state.co.us](mailto:Cathy.Rodriguez@state.co.us)