

Vulnerable Sector Screen Police Check

Many community organizations require all their volunteers, employees, and placement students to undergo a vulnerable sector police check. These are done to protect clientele who are considered “vulnerable persons.” A vulnerable person is a person who, because of their age, disability or other circumstance, whether temporary or permanent, is (a) in a position of dependence on others or (b) is otherwise at greater risk than the general population of being harmed by a person in a position of authority or trust relative to him or her.

As a student working with a community organization, it is entirely your responsibility to determine if you need a vulnerable sector police check to work with your partner organization. If so, you must take all necessary steps to ensure that this is completed before you begin your placement.

1. Determine which police department you must go through. This depends on your permanent address. For example, if you are living on campus, but your permanent address is in York Region, you must conduct your police check through York Regional Police. If your permanent residence is out-of-province, you will have to request the vulnerable sector screening through the police department in your home province. If you are from a town in Ontario that does not have a local police force, you may request a vulnerable sector screening from the Ontario Provincial Police.
2. Visit the website of the police service (listed below or available through Google) and determine the steps required and any applicable fees.
3. Begin the screening process in time for the beginning of your placement. Note the estimated wait times below, and refer to the police services website for more accurate information.

Police checks can take up to 12 weeks to complete and, in most cases, are **valid for six months**; therefore, the process needs to be started early.

Area	Wait Time	Cost*	Website
York Region	4-6 Weeks	\$20.00	http://www.yrp.ca/community-policing/how-do-i/vulnerable-sector-screening.aspx
Toronto	12-15 Weeks	\$15.00	http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/prcp/
Peel Region	2-4 Weeks	\$25.00**	http://www.peelpolice.on.ca/en/services/vulnerablesectorcheck.asp
Durham Region	3 Weeks	\$20.00	http://www.drps.ca/internet_explorer/over_the_counter/index.asp?Category_ID=3&Do_What=fetch&ID=5&Page=1

*Cost is for volunteers (it is higher for individuals), updated May 2014

** Peel does not have a volunteer rate, but the cost for full-time students is \$25, therefore, bring student ID when applying.