



TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL

EDWARD D. HOZZA, JR.
Mayor

September 12, 2016

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATIONS

Effective October 1, 2016, the way background checks on individuals volunteering for recreational programs at our Township's parks and playgrounds will change.

As you know, background checks that were required by Township ordinance were being performed in-house due to the need to use recreation fees to pay for their processing. However, with the advent of Act 153, state police record check and child abuse history clearances are no longer associated with processing fees and are now free of charge for volunteers. Therefore, the Township will no longer be processing these background checks.

Beginning October 1, 2016, any volunteer who does not already have a current and complete background check on file in our Human Resources office will have to process these checks on their own and provide the results for the Township files.

The state police record and child abuse history clearance checks are easily accessible online. In addition, volunteers will still need to provide either a waiver exempting them from having to conduct an FBI record check through fingerprinting OR dated, current copy of their FBI fingerprint results. Waiver forms are available at the Township and will soon be available on our website. Waivers must be FULLY completed or they will not be accepted at the Township.

Whitehall Township will continue to keep a record of volunteers who have completed their background checks and will continue to provide updates to the parks and playgrounds.

Mandatory reporting information that has been included in the past with background check packets will be noted on our website and will also be forwarded to each park/playground for posting. It is my suggestion that every park/playground association distribute a copy of mandatory reporting information to every new volunteer to ensure that everyone is aware of the change in how to report suspected child abuse.

It is against the law to allow anyone who has not fully completed background checks to participate with youth activities. **PLEASE REMEMBER, Act 153 compliance is YOUR responsibility.**

Sincerely,

Edward D. Hozza, Jr.
Mayor