

# Background Check Information

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This is a list of background check options. It is not exhaustive, nor is not an endorsement or recommendation for any organization or option specifically (with the exception of Safe Gatherings).

Consider checking with your insurance company to see if they offer discounts or have a preferred provider.

## About Background Checks

- [Basics of Background Checks](#) (Church Mutual)
- [Common Questions about Background Screening](#) (Brotherhood Mutual)
- [Brotherhood Mutual Screening Options](#)
- [Church Mutual Background Check Partner](#)

## No Cost Options

- [Michigan ICHAT](#) (Internet Criminal Access Tool)
  - Pros:
    - No cost for churches after approved application
    - Results are immediate
    - No social security number required
  - Cons:
    - Limited to Michigan records
    - Name-based
    - Results may not be accurate with a common name
- [Michigan Central Registry Clearance](#)
  - "Michigan's Central Registry is a repository of names of individuals who are identified as perpetrators related to a central registry case."
  - Pros:
    - No cost
    - Individuals request the report themselves
  - Cons:
    - Individuals request the report themselves
    - Takes more time
    - Limited information

# Background Check Companies

These companies may offer additional services

- [Protect My Ministry](#)
- [Checkr](#)
- [Ministry Safe](#)
- [Shepherd's Watch \(Group\)](#)
- [Safe Hiring Solutions](#)
- [Secure Search](#)
- [Verified First](#)

## Safe Gatherings

(Application, Reference Check, Background Checks, Training)

- [Safe Gatherings](#) (the Michigan Conference recommends Safe Gatherings for local churches and requires completion of SG requirements for individuals who wish to be authorized for district or conference related events or activities)
  - Pros
    - Includes application, reference check, background check, and training
    - Offers a training-only for youth under the age of 18
    - All records are kept by Safe Gatherings
    - Less work on staff
    - Training is consistent
    - Individuals who complete SG through their local church are also authorized for district/conference events
  - Cons
    - Some may find it cost-prohibitive
    - Ideally requires an additional training relevant to the local church