

August 2, 2005

Mr. Richard A. Hertling
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Policy
4234 Robert F. Kennedy Building
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Employment Screening for Criminal Records

(OLP Docket No.100)

Attorney General's Recommendations to

Congress

Dear Mr. Hertling:

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the Attorney General's initiative to evaluate the nation's policies related to criminal background checks conducted for employment purposes and to make recommendations for reform to Congress. (70 Fed.Reg. 32849, June 6, 2005).

I am a National Trainer on Ex-Offender Employment. I have a special interest in the Attorney General's report and recommendations to Congress because I train ex-offenders and staff who assist them on how to get hired with a criminal history.

I'm concerned over the fact that my State (Minnesota), releases arrest data as "public information" in the county it happened in. If the individual signs a release, then the BCA will release arrest data to the employer. I feel only convictions should be released. I have one client where her BCA check came back saying "charges pending" on a theft offense from two years ago. I would strongly encourage a national policy that says only conviction information is released.

Also, the multitude of private data bases out there are inaccurate. Even the BCA is not always accurate. Employers and clients need a system they can count on and understand.

Expungement is a waste of time if the private data bases don't remove the offense from their records. It gives false hope to my job seekers and just line the pockets for attorney's.

Lastly, a national system is needed for those criminals who jump from state to state. It's important to know if someone was a sex offender or rapist in another state. Once again, there are discrepancies as to which states release and track what information.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Maria L. Anderson
National Trainer / Consultant
Ex-Offender Employment
Anderson Professional Training Services
Phone: (612) 599-2852 Fax: (763) 420-4824