

PRESS RELEASE
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REVISIONS TO FINGERPRINT PROCESS FOR LICENSEES

Austin: Charla Ann King, Executive Director of the Texas Racing Commission, announced that significant revisions to the fingerprint process for licensees will become effective December 1, 2008, with the implementation of a new electronic fingerprint system in. Beginning on that date, each occupational license applicant who submits fingerprint cards for a background check will be required to pay a \$12 fingerprint processing fee in addition to the occupational licensing fee.

Based on revisions to the Commission's fingerprint rule, each applicant, including those 10 years of age or older, will now be required to submit fingerprint cards. In addition, the Commission will update a licensee's background information more often, as license holders will be fingerprinted every three years, instead of every five years.

Using the new electronic fingerprinting system will reduce the turnaround time for retrieving criminal history background information from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). The new system allows the Commission to more quickly identify those who are not eligible for licensure due to a disqualifying criminal violation. It will also significantly reduce the overall fingerprint rejection rate.

These changes to the fingerprint process follow an in-depth review by the Racing Commission and DPS. The first electronic fingerprint system has been in use since early September at Lone Star Park. Following this successful pilot program, permanent electronic machines will soon be installed at Retama Park and Sam Houston, with portable machines being utilized at Gillespie County Fair & Festivals, Gulf Greyhound Park, Manor Downs, and Valley Race Park.

The new electronic system will also speed up processing of "inked" fingerprint cards. Applicants not able to appear in person at a Texas Racing Commission Licensing office may continue to obtain "inked" prints from a local law enforcement agency. These prints will also be entered electronically to DPS, again decreasing the turn-around time for obtaining background information from both the DPS and the FBI.

Applicants for occupational licenses may obtain licensing information from any Licensing office at any Texas racetrack or call the Austin office at 512-833-6699. Applicants may also be eligible to submit an on-line application. Go to the TxRC website at www.txrc.state.tx.us for more information.