

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY

Introduction

Employees and volunteers (“responsible persons”) in Westminster School activities function as representatives of the School and as such are held to different standards than when acting as parents or adults in their own homes or families. Responsible persons are encouraged to remember they will be both providing supervision and modeling behavior for the children in their care. They should endeavor to see that the example they set is consistent with the philosophy and mission of the School. These rules and guidelines should be followed by all responsible persons at all events, thereby providing appropriate supervision of children. Supervision should be consistent, reasonable, and prudent.

1. Screening Procedures

Any person known to have committed previous acts of misconduct with children is prohibited from working with children through Westminster School’s programs.

All responsible persons who work with children are required (1) to complete a *Staff and Volunteer Screening Form*, (2) to be interviewed by an appropriate administrator, (3) to consent to reference and background checks, and (4) to be approved by the head of school, division directors, or the director of development.

The information in this document will be reviewed with all responsible persons who undergo the screening procedures. Approved responsible persons must submit a signed acknowledgment that they have read and will comply with the *Child Abuse Prevention Policy* prior to working with children.

2. Two Adult Rule.

No responsible person working with children should place him/herself in the compromising situation of being alone with a single child and out of sight of teachers, advisors, aides, and/or parents.

3. Six Month Rule

No volunteer will be assigned to work with children for overnight activities until he/she has been an active participant in the life of this School for at least six months and has participated in an orientation session.

4. Transporting Children

Responsible persons should not transport children for school activities without written permission of each child’s parent or guardian. In accordance with other school policies, employees should not transport Westminster School students for school activities.

5. Supervision of Overnight Trips

There should be at least two adult male and two adult female chaperones for any school sponsored overnight event involving children of both sexes. At least one male and one female chaperone should be faculty or staff members at Westminster School, and all chaperones should be approved according to the Westminster School Child Abuse Prevention Policy. While the ratio of children to adults will vary with the age of the children, it should be no larger than 6:1.

6. Drug and Alcohol Use.

Responsible persons supervising children at events may not use illegal drugs or alcohol of any kind.

7. Bathroom Supervision of Children

Whenever possible, responsible persons who accompany a child to the bathroom should remain outside the bathroom while the child is inside. The modesty and privacy of the child should be respected at all times.

8. Discipline Guidelines

Responsible persons shall not discipline any child by the use of spanking, hitting, slapping, or any other form of physical punishment.

Verbal reprimands shall not include destructive criticism, insults, intimidations, or offensive language.

No responsible person should discipline a child by isolating him or her out of sight and sound of the group.

9. Interaction with children

Responsible persons should avoid initiating rough housing, playful touching, and physical teasing with children.

Responsible persons should avoid online social relationships with minor children from Westminster School.

10. Reporting Responsibilities and Procedures

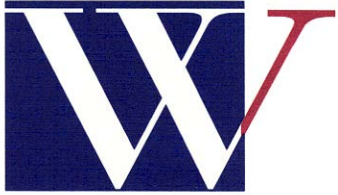
Any inappropriate conduct or relationship between a responsible person and a child should be promptly reported to the division director or head of school. Those who report incidents will be asked to fill out an incident report.

All alleged violations of the Child Abuse Prevention Policy will be taken seriously. The safety of children is our top priority. Responses to allegations will be handled with care and respect for everyone's privacy and confidentiality. The dignity of the accused and the vulnerability of the reporter are also important.

11. Response Plan

The School administration shall determine the appropriate response to substantiated allegations. Responses might include, but are not limited to:

1. Documentation and close supervision of the person named, being certain that all responsible persons understand the need to supervise.
2. Discussion with the person named to help him/her understand and respect appropriate limits of behavior and adherence to school policy and procedures with or without a recommendation for intervention.
3. Removal of the person from his/her position pending completion of an investigation.
4. Removal of the person from his/her position, with or without a recommendation for outside intervention.



**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

I have been provided with a copy of, and have read and understood, the Child Abuse Prevention Policy as in effect on this date. I understand and agree to abide by the Child Abuse Prevention Policy, and any other applicable procedures and policies of the School.

Signature

Date

Name (please print)

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL BACKGROUND SCREEN FORM

Authorization

Authorization: By signing below, you authorize: (a) First Advantage. ("FA") to request information about you from any public or private information source; (b) anyone to provide information about you to FA; (c) FA to provide us (**Westminster School, Inc.**) one or more reports based on that information; and (d) us to share those reports with others for legitimate business purposes related to your employment. FA may investigate your education, work history, professional licenses and credentials, references, address history, social security number validity, right to work, criminal record, lawsuits, driving record, credit history, and any other information with public or private information sources. You acknowledge that a fax, image, or copy of this authorization is as valid as the original. You make this authorization to be valid for as long as you are an applicant or employee with us.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's "Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act" is attached to this authorization. If you are a New York applicant, a copy of New York's law on the use of criminal records is attached. By signing below, you acknowledge receipt of these documents.

Personal Information: Please print the information requested below to identify yourself for FA.

Printed name: _____
First Middle (none) Last

Other names used: _____

Current and former addresses:

_____	current	_____	_____
from Mo/Yr	to Mo/Yr	Street	City, State & Zip
_____	_____	_____	_____
from Mo/Yr	to Mo/Yr	Street	City, State & Zip
_____	_____	_____	_____
from Mo/Yr	to Mo/Yr	Street	City, State & Zip

Some government agencies and other information sources require the following information when checking for records. FA will not use it for any other purposes.

_____	_____
Date of birth	Social security number
_____	_____
Driver's license number & state	Name as it appears on license

Release of Liability

The information contained on this form is true and correct. By signing below, I consent to Westminster School contacting anyone that it deems appropriate to investigate the completeness of or verify the information I have provided or to discuss my character and fitness for work with children. By signing below, I also release Westminster School and all of the persons, any and all claims, of any kind or nature, which may arise now or in the future from or in any way connected with this investigation. I waive any right that I may have to inspect any information provided about me by any person or organization.

I understand that my employment or ability to volunteer may be determined in whole or in part by Westminster School using data from this report and that I may be entitled to a copy of this report.

Report Copy: If you are applying for a job or live in California, Minnesota or Oklahoma, you may request a copy of the report by checking this box:

Signature of volunteer _____

Date _____

Para información en español, visite www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore o escribe a la Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street N.W., Washington, DC 20552.

A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act

The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. There are many types of consumer reporting agencies, including credit bureaus and specialty agencies (such as agencies that sell information about check writing histories, medical records, and rental history records). Here is a summary of your major rights under the FCRA. **For more information, including information about additional rights, go to www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore or write to: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street N.W., Washington, DC 20552.**

• **You must be told if information in your file has been used against you.** Anyone who uses a credit report or another type of consumer report to deny your application for credit, insurance, or employment – or to take another adverse action against you – must tell you, and must give you the name, address, and phone number of the agency that provided the information.

• **You have the right to know what is in your file.** You may request and obtain all the information about you in the files of a consumer reporting agency (your “file disclosure”). You will be required to provide proper identification, which may include your Social Security number. In many cases, the disclosure will be free. You are entitled to a free file disclosure if:

- a person has taken adverse action against you because of information in your credit report;
- you are the victim of identity theft and place a fraud alert in your file;
- your file contains inaccurate information as a result of fraud;
- you are on public assistance;
- you are unemployed but expect to apply for employment within 60 days.

In addition, all consumers are entitled to one free disclosure every 12 months upon request from each nationwide credit bureau and from nationwide specialty consumer reporting agencies. See www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore for additional information.

• **You have the right to ask for a credit score.** Credit scores are numerical summaries of your credit-worthiness based on information from credit bureaus. You may request a credit score from consumer reporting agencies that create scores or distribute scores used in residential real property loans, but you will have to pay for it. In some mortgage transactions, you will receive credit score information for free from the mortgage lender.

• **You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information.** If you identify information in your file that is incomplete or inaccurate, and report it to the consumer reporting agency, the agency must investigate unless your dispute is frivolous. See www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore for an explanation of dispute procedures.

• **Consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information.** Inaccurate, incomplete or unverifiable information must be removed or corrected, usually within 30 days. However, a consumer reporting agency may continue to report information it has verified as accurate.

• **Consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information.** In most cases, a consumer reporting agency may not report negative information that is more than seven years old, or bankruptcies that are more than 10 years old.

• **Access to your file is limited.** A consumer reporting agency may provide information about you only to people with a valid need – usually to consider an application with a creditor, insurer, employer, landlord, or other business. The FCRA specifies those with a valid need for access.

• **You must give your consent for reports to be provided to employers.** A consumer reporting agency may not give out information about you to your employer, or a potential employer, without your written consent given to the employer. Written consent generally is not required in the trucking industry. For more information, go to www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore.

• **You may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report.** Unsolicited “prescreened” offers for credit and insurance must include a toll-free phone number you can call if you choose to remove your name and address from the lists these offers are based on. You may opt-out with the nationwide credit bureaus at 1-888-567-8688.

• **You may seek damages from violators.** If a consumer reporting agency, or, in some cases, a user of consumer reports or a furnisher of information to a consumer reporting agency violates the FCRA, you may be able to sue in state or federal court.

• **Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights.** For more information, visit www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore.

States may enforce the FCRA, and many states have their own consumer reporting laws. In some cases, you may have more rights under state law. For more information, contact your state or local consumer protection agency or your state Attorney General. For information about your federal rights, contact:

TYPE OF BUSINESS:	CONTACT:
1.a. Banks, savings associations, and credit unions with total assets of over \$10 billion and their affiliates. b. Such affiliates that are not banks, savings associations, or credit unions also should list, in addition to the Bureau:	a. Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection 1700 G Street NW Washington, DC 20552 b. Federal Trade Commission: Consumer Response Center – FCRA Washington, DC 20580 (877) 382-4357
2. To the extent not included in item 1 above: a. National banks, federal savings associations, and federal branches and federal agencies of foreign banks b. State member banks, branches and agencies of foreign banks (other than federal branches, federal agencies, and insured state branches of foreign banks), commercial lending companies owned or controlled by foreign banks, and organizations operating under section 25 or 25A of the Federal Reserve Act c. Nonmember Insured Banks, Insured State Branches of Foreign Banks, and insured state savings associations d. Federal Credit Unions	a. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency Customer Assistance Group 1301 McKinney Street, Suite 3450 Houston, TX 77010-9050 b. Federal Reserve Consumer Help Center P.O. Box 1200 Minneapolis, MN 55480 c. FDIC Consumer Response Center 1100 Walnut Street, Box #11 Kansas City, MO 64106 d. National Credit Union Administration Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) Division of Consumer Compliance and Outreach (DCCO) 1775 Duke Street Alexandria, VA 22314
3. Air carriers	Asst. General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement & Proceedings Department of Transportation 400 Seventh Street SW Washington, DC 20590
4. Creditors Subject to Surface Transportation Board	Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board Department of Transportation 1925 K Street NW Washington, DC 20423
5. Creditors Subject to Packers and Stockyards Act	Nearest Packers and Stockyards Administration area supervisor
6. Small Business Investment Companies	Associate Deputy Administrator for Capital Access United States Small Business Administration 406 Third Street, SW, 8th Floor

	Washington, DC 20416
7. Brokers and Dealers	Securities and Exchange Commission 100 F St NE Washington, DC 20549
8. Federal Land Banks, Federal Land Bank Associations, Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, and Production Credit Associations	Farm Credit Administration 1501 Farm Credit Drive McLean, VA 22102-5090
9. Retailers, Finance Companies, and All Other Creditors Not Listed Above	FTC Regional Office for region in which the creditor operates or Federal Trade Commission: Consumer Response Center – FCRA Washington, DC 20580 (877) 382-4357

Additional Information about the Fair Credit Reporting Act

The Summary of Your Rights provided above does not reflect certain amendments contained in the Consumer Reporting Employment Clarification Act of 1998. The following additional information may be important for you:

- Records of convictions of crimes can be reported regardless of when they occurred.
- If you apply for a job that is covered by the Department of Transportation's authority to establish qualifications and the maximum hours for that job and you apply by mail, telephone, computer, or other similar means, your consent to a consumer report may validly be obtained orally, in writing, or electronically. If an adverse action is taken against you because of a consumer report for which you gave your consent over the telephone, computer, or similar means, you may be informed of the adverse action and the name, address and phone number of the consumer reporting agency, orally, in writing, or electronically.

ARTICLE 23-A
LICENSURE AND EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS PREVIOUSLY
CONVICTED OF ONE OR MORE CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Section 750. Definitions.

Section 751. Applicability.

Section 752. Unfair discrimination against persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses prohibited.

Section 753. Factors to be considered concerning a previous criminal conviction; presumption.

Section 754. Written statement upon denial of license or employment.

Section 755. Enforcement.

§ 750. Definitions. For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- (1) "Public agency" means the state or any local subdivision thereof, or any state or local department, agency, board or commission.
- (2) "Private employer" means any person, company, corporation, labor organization or association which employs ten or more persons.
- (3) "Direct relationship" means that the nature of criminal conduct for which the person was convicted has a direct bearing on his fitness or ability to perform one or more of the duties or responsibilities necessarily related to the license, opportunity, or job in question.
- (4) "License" means any certificate, license, permit or grant of permission required by the laws of this state, its political subdivisions or instrumentalities as a condition for the lawful practice of any occupation, employment, trade, vocation, business, or profession. Provided, however, that "license" shall not, for the purposes of this article, include any license or permit to own, possess, carry, or fire any explosive, pistol, handgun, rifle, shotgun, or other firearm.
- (5) "Employment" means any occupation, vocation or employment, or any form of vocational or educational training. Provided, however, that "employment" shall not, for the purposes of this article, include membership in any law enforcement agency.

§ 751. Applicability. The provisions of this article shall apply to any application by any person for a license or employment at any public or private employer, who has previously been convicted of one or more criminal offenses in this state or in any other jurisdiction, and to any license or employment held by any person whose conviction of one or more criminal offenses in this state or in any other jurisdiction preceded such employment or granting of a license, except where a mandatory forfeiture, disability or bar to employment is imposed by law, and has not been removed by an executive pardon, certificate of relief from disabilities or certificate of good conduct. Nothing in this article shall be construed to affect any right an employer may have with respect to an intentional misrepresentation in connection with an application for employment made by a prospective employee or previously made by a current employee.

§ 752. Unfair discrimination against persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses prohibited. No application for any license or employment, and no employment or license held by an individual, to which the provisions of this article are applicable, shall be denied or acted upon adversely by reason of the individual's having been previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses, or by reason of a finding of lack of "good moral character" when such finding is based upon the fact that the individual has previously been convicted of one or more criminal offenses, unless:

- (1) there is a direct relationship between one or more of the previous criminal offenses and the specific license or employment sought or held by the individual; or
- (2) the issuance or continuation of the license or the granting or continuation of the employment would involve an unreasonable risk to property or to the safety or welfare of specific individuals or the general public.

§ 753. Factors to be considered concerning a previous criminal conviction; presumption.

1. In making a determination pursuant to section seven hundred fifty-two of this chapter, the public agency or private employer shall consider the following factors:
 - (a) The public policy of this state, as expressed in this act, to encourage the licensure and employment of persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses.
 - (b) The specific duties and responsibilities necessarily related to the license or employment sought or held by the person.
 - (c) The bearing, if any, the criminal offense or offenses for which the person was previously convicted will have on his fitness or ability to perform one or more such duties or responsibilities.
 - (d) The time which has elapsed since the occurrence of the criminal offense or offenses.
 - (e) The age of the person at the time of occurrence of the criminal offense or offenses.
 - (f) The seriousness of the offense or offenses.
 - (g) Any information produced by the person, or produced on his behalf, in regard to his rehabilitation and good conduct.
 - (h) The legitimate interest of the public agency or private employer in protecting property, and the safety and welfare of specific individuals or the general public.

2. In making a determination pursuant to section seven hundred fifty-two of this chapter, the public agency or private employer shall also give consideration to a certificate of relief from disabilities or a certificate of good conduct issued to the applicant, which certificate shall create a presumption of rehabilitation in regard to the offense or offenses specified therein.

§ 754. Written statement upon denial of license or employment. At the request of any person previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses who has been denied a license or employment, a public agency or private employer shall provide, within thirty days of a request, a written statement setting forth the reasons for such denial.

§ 755. Enforcement.

1. In relation to actions by public agencies, the provisions of this article shall be enforceable by a proceeding brought pursuant to article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules.
2. In relation to actions by private employers, the provisions of this article shall be enforceable by the division of human rights pursuant to the powers and procedures set forth in article fifteen of the executive law, and, concurrently, by the New York city commission on human rights.