

Vulnerable Sector Screening Policy

It is the policy of ISE Ontario to require a Vulnerable Sector Screening for anyone 18 years of age or older who will have overnight contact with young people under the age of 18 while residing with a host family. This includes family members and any visitors that partake in overnight stays with the host family. A similar screening process is required from our partner organizations.

Procedures:

- 2-1 Various jurisdictions in Ontario refer to this process by different terms. It may be called a Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC), Vulnerable Sector Screening Programs, or something similar.
- 2-2 Persons required by this policy to obtain such a check, should inquire of their local police authority as to how they should apply for the screening and at what cost. Some jurisdictions will waive the fee for a volunteer with a non-profit organization which could include the hosting family. ISE offers (on the website) a Volunteer Letter to verify the volunteer nature of those associated with the programs whether as workers or hosts.
- 2-3 The ISE Ontario website will clearly indicate the need for VSS for all families, or anyone else living in the home, applying for an exchange. No application will be processed or matched until a clear record is provided. In cases where the record is not clear, permission to participate will be done on an individual basis. The VSS will be one of the items on the checklist of things to be submitted with the Application Form.
- 2-4 The Executive Director will be responsible to do due diligence in examining any records submitted in confidence which require an objective decision regarding the nature of the incident recorded in the report received from the police and whether or not it poses a threat to a visiting student.
- 2-5 Those required to obtain a VSS to volunteer with ISE or to host a student include:
All persons, 18 years and older, who are in contact with young people as part of their role in providing or promoting ISE programs; Parents and family members, 18 years and older, who will be residing on a permanent basis in the home where visiting students will live during their exchange. This includes family members who do not live within the hosting home but who have the right to keep the exchange student and his or her partner overnight as the result of a custody sharing arrangement.
- 2-6 Any adult with overnight access, not limited to, grandparents, older siblings returning from school, girlfriend/boyfriend, etc. during the hosting period will require a VSS. For further information, please contact our office.
- 2-7 If there are special circumstances, ISE may require a letter (Appendix B) indicating that the person or persons in question do not have a criminal record or charges pending. In such cases, a decision, at the discretion of the Executive Director, will be made.
- 2-8 ISE Ontario will only accept a VSS which has been obtained by applying in person to the local police authority within one year of the start of the hosting period.
- 2-9 If a family is experiencing a lengthy delay in receiving the results of a VSS, parents may submit the receipt showing the check has been applied for with the Application, along with a letter of expected clearance (conditions to be supplied by our office), until the document arrives. Failure to provide a VSS report will result in the Application being rejected by ISE Ontario. No hosting can occur until a clean VSS has been provided to ISE Ontario.