



November 15, 2019

SUBJECT: Ride-Sharing Background Checks/Florida Senate Bill SB118

To Whom It May Concern,

Politicians all over the country are trying to decide how to manage the new and innovative technologies of Transport Network Companies, e.g. Uber, Lyft. The current push is to force them to use an expensive FBI fingerprint option as their background screening source, instead of an accredited background screening company.

The theory sounds great, but the logistics make it impossible to get an accurate record on an applicant. We make the mistake of thinking an 'FBI Check' will find everything and is a perfect cure for background screening. This is completely wrong.

Let me clarify, in a perfect world John Doe is arrested for a DUI or rape offense. Mr. Doe is fingerprinted for those offenses. A copy of the fingerprints are sent to the State Police in that state by the arresting agency, then the State Police sends it on to the FBI for their compiled records. Years later he is finally convicted, is incarcerated, he is then fingerprinted again, and then the County Clerk sends the conviction information and new fingerprints to the State Police, then again, it is sent on to the FBI.

Where this gets problematic is that he is convicted, however he is placed on probation in lieu of a prison sentence. Fingerprints are never taken and his record never shows the conviction. Or in some cases the charges are dismissed or reduced, which happens in roughly 50% of cases. Now Mr. Doe has an arrest record that keeps him from getting a job, discrimination occurs here. The other problem is 'catch and release', some DUIs, thefts, assaults are never taken to the police station for prints. John Doe is released at the scene. There are 17,985 law enforcement agencies, 3,600 counties, 50 states, and 2 provinces. The logistics to get all this to one source, the FBI, is impossible to get accurate. The United States Government Accountability Office published a study in February 2015 that found the following states had none or incomplete records in their fingerprint databases; 20 states had 75% complete records, 13 states had only 50% complete records, 9 states had 25% complete, and 8 states were under 25% complete in arrest and conviction record data from their county jurisdictions. (USGAO report on Criminal History Records Page 18, Feb 2015.) Fingerprinting is not an accurate method to perform background checks and it can take 20-40 days, on average, to get a completed report returned to the employer.



Private Accredited background screening companies send agents into the courthouses to pull the arrest and conviction files for accuracy. Due to technology and vendor networks established, this can be done for very minimal costs and be completed in a few days. This process also allows for maximum possible accuracy.

I call on our politicians to get away from the old method and outdated technology of fingerprinting and use innovation and today's technology to get accurate results and keep our citizens truly safe. Get away from fingerprinting transportation drivers, including taxis, bus drivers, and Department of Transportation drivers. This will keep us safer, but more importantly; my wife safer and my daughter safer from inaccurate fingerprint records of criminal drivers.

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