

Safeguard Programme

Garda Vetting v Police Certificates

Garda Vetting

The function of the Garda Central Vetting Unit is to disclose details regarding '*all prosecutions, successful or not, pending or completed, and / or convictions*' in respect of an individual applicant to a registered organisation.

The Garda Vetting Unit does not provide '*clearance*' for persons to work with children, vulnerable adults or any other capacity in a registered organisation.

Can vetting be conducted on an individual basis?

No - Garda Vetting is conducted only on behalf of registered organisations and is not conducted for individual persons on a personal basis. Organisations seeking Garda Vetting for their employees, volunteers or students must register with the Garda Central Vetting Unit or have their applications processed through an organisation that is already registered with the Vetting Unit to act as an intermediary for a particular sector or group.

Who conducts Garda Vetting?

Garda Vetting is carried out by the Garda Central Vetting Unit which is based in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Garda Vetting is not conducted by Gardai at local level

Police Certificate

The Gardai provide a statement of criminal convictions (or lack of them) to people in Ireland who need them for a range of reasons and this is a Police Certificate.

A police certificate is issued for the purposes of providing information to Foreign Consular Authorities in relation to obtaining a Foreign Visa, enabling a person to adopt or conduct business overseas. The information provided on a Police Certificate outlines whether or not a person has any convictions or not.

Who issues a Police Certificate? A Police Certificate is issued by the Superintendent in the District where the relevant applicant resides, or formerly resided, in the Republic of Ireland.

Is there a fee for a Police Certificate?

The certificate is issued free of charge.

For what purpose are Police Certificates issued? Police Certificates are issued for the following purposes:-

- Foreign Consular Authorities
- Foreign Visas
- Establishing a Business in other EU States

How do I apply for a Police Certificate? Applicants for Police Certificates for the above purposes should make an application in writing to the Superintendent in charge of the district where they live, or formerly resided, in the Republic of Ireland. Please go to the Garda [Station Directory](#) to find out who the District Superintendent is.

Are Police Certificates and Garda Vetting the same thing?

No, Police Certificate and Garda Vetting are two separate processes, providing different levels of information.

A Police Certificate yields limited information on convictions i.e. whether a person has ever been convicted of any crime or not.

Garda Vetting is the process to be undertaken for candidates wanting to work/volunteer with children or vulnerable adults. This process will disclose any convictions or prosecutions, pending or complete. A wider range of information is provided through the vetting process, enabling the potential employer to make an informed choice regarding the suitability or otherwise of the candidate.

So do I need to use both ? It is up to each organisation to ensure that their volunteer recruitment, selection and management procedures address issues of child protection and serve to protect vulnerable adults overseas.

If a Police Certificate is required by the relevant Consular Authorities for entry into a country, then this must be applied for.

If a volunteer will be engaging with children or vulnerable adults during the course of their volunteer work, then best practice would be to also acquire Garda Vetting, which provides a much wider range of information.