

CI TIMES



VolChecked.com is the Answer for Non Profit Organizations

In today's economy you need to take precautions and be aware of potential harm to the environment around you. When searching for volunteers to work with children, teens, elders, disabled or other services involving cash flow, or even just delivering merchandise using a company vehicle, "Never judge a book by its cover". Some people can look clean cut, intelligent and seem like they have a passion for volunteering and helping others, yet in reality they have had trouble in the past that may be a risk to your organization and even your clientele. Over the last few years Commercial Investigations LLC (CI) has developed many solutions for the Volunteer Background Investigations area for non-profit organizations that may be struggling with limited funding. After some intensive market research, CI found that organizations realize how crucial it is to protect their organization and clientele. However, with little to no funding it can be challenging and make implementing background investigations almost impossible to consider. Not anymore! CI has found a solution to mitigate the risk of letting the wrong person volunteer; in turn mitigating the risk of fraud, abuse, illegal activity, and negative influence. Implementing a policy for volunteer background investigations can be a burden to an organization because they need to collect sensitive data, store confidential information and it can be extremely costly and time consuming. It can be difficult to find the right volunteer and organizations are looking for committed volunteers who are volunteering for all the right reasons. CI's VolChecked is a solution that can benefit the organization and the volunteer.

CI launched the epic new program VolChecked last summer. This is a proprietary program that enables your volunteers to log onto a secured portal, enter their own personal data and electronically sign a consent form. The volunteer will actually absorb the cost for their background report which will allow them to own the information which can be shared with multiple organizations that they may be currently serving. The majority of serious volunteers are willing to absorb this minimum cost, knowing they are volunteering for an organization

that is protecting the volunteers and their clientele, keeping it a safe and friendly environment.

Our portal technology is a fantastic way to eliminate all the paperwork, entering of data, and time it takes to process a background. Some of the benefits of VolChecked include:

- ~ Volunteers can utilize our secure online portal and electronically sign their own consent form
- ~ Volunteers absorb the cost of their own Background Investigations and enter all their own personal data
- ~ Volunteers can share their background reports with other organizations that they may be servicing
- ~ Eliminates cost and time spent by your organization to complete background investigations
- ~ Eliminates processing and storing of sensitive personal information by the organization
- ~ Organizations can provide our link right on their own web page for easy access for the volunteer
- ~ VolChecked has 5 levels to choose from depending on an organization's requirements and needs
- ~ Our most popular "Platinum" level includes a 2 year monitoring service that will alert you of a recent arrest (currently covers NYS only)
- ~ Volunteers involved in Disaster Relief will be available at a minutes notice by having a valid up-to-date background investigation available to share with any organization (Platinum level only)

To learn more about VolChecked please visit our website at <http://www.volchecked.com>. If you have any other questions contact us at info@commercialinvestigationsllc.com or 800-284-0906.

Inside this issue:

VolChecked.com is the Answer for Non Profit Organizations	1
CI Webinar Series	1
Due Diligence: Second Chances	2
Meet Due Diligence: Last Scene From Due	2
Meet Courtney Caola: Client Services Specialist	3
Inquiry Spotlight: Sex Offender Registry	3

CI Webinar Series

In 2014 we are bringing monthly educational webinars to our clients. Here is a preliminary schedule:

- Thursday January 23 11:00 AM ET: Securing Confidential Data
- Thursday February 20 11:00 AM ET: The Preadvers/Adverse Action Process
- Thursday March 27 11:00 AM ET
- Thursday April 17 11:00 AM ET
- Thursday May 22 11:00 AM ET
- Thursday June 26 11:00 AM ET
- Thursday July 24 11:00 AM ET
- Thursday August 28 11:00 AM ET
- Thursday September 25 11:00 AM ET
- Thursday October 16 11:00 AM ET
- Thursday November 20 11:00 AM ET
- Thursday December 18 11:00 AM ET

To make sure you get our email notifications please contact us at 800-284-0906 or info@commercialinvestigationsllc.com.

See you online!

Due Diligence: Second Chances

In our fall edition of CI times Due decided it was time to turn his life around. Due packed up his belongings, left his dirty laundry behind and moved from New York to Connecticut. In the short time Due has been in CT he has successfully completed a 10 week intervention program and started his own lawn care service, Clean Cut Clippings. A little hard work has taken Due a long way as an entrepreneur, he even landed a contract with the Town Park thanks to a second-rate background check provided by Bargain Basement Backgrounds. There is however one stipulation of the contract – Due must agree to volunteer his time to help provide extra upkeep of the Park Common areas, with an option of providing transportation assistance to youth, or counseling of campers in various recreational programs.

Now that winter is in full force, there is not much in terms of lawn care needed at the Park and Due was asked to begin his volunteer hours. The park requested that instead of Due completing his hours at the Park, they would rather him volunteer his time to help out with the disaster relief efforts from hurricane Sandy. Due was given the name of a local volunteer organization Clean Slate Disaster Relief. Due made a quick phone call and signed himself up to help out three days a week throughout the winter. He was excited to finally be doing something positive in his life and helping others from back home in NY.

Due was asked to come in for a quick screening process before he would be able to volunteer. As always, Due charmed everyone in the room. They were happy to have another volunteer on board. They told Due that he would have to complete a background check before participating. “No problem” Due thought. The background check he had completed for the Town Park did not show any of his prior convictions from NY. Well, that is where Due was very wrong. Turns out, Clean Slate Disaster Relief is federally funded and requires a much more comprehensive background check to be completed. Due did some homework on Commercial Investigations, the company completing the background check and decided that he would not be able to hide in the shadows of his criminal past. Due decided he would be upfront from the beginning

and disclose on his consent form his prior convictions in NY.

Due signed onto the Commercial Investigations all-new VolChecked System and sent over his information right away. Well, just as Due thought, his background check from Commercial Investigations came back with some red flags. The recruitment team at Clean Slate Disaster Relief was flabbergasted by Due’s criminal background. The report revealed a Class A Misdemeanor conviction for Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 7th Degree in 2005, Failure to Register as a Sex Offender in 2012 and last but not least, the report revealed that Due was recently convicted of Welfare Fraud in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony.

Being that Due disclosed his convictions on his consent form and seemed to be getting his life back on track, Clean Slate Disaster Relief decided they would give Due a chance. After all, they could really use his help and because of the nature of the work, he would not be considered a threat. Since the company used Commercial Investigations unique VolChecked Platinum level they would be able to keep a close eye on Due. This service includes two years of monitoring service which will keep the background investigation active using an arrest alert service with NYS sheriffs’ data that will notify Clean Slate Disaster Relief if Due was to get rearrested in New York. Will Due prove that Clean Slate Disaster Relief has made the right decision by letting him volunteer or will they be getting a notification from Commercial Investigations that Due has relapsed back to his criminal tendencies?

See Due’s report here:

http://www.commercialinvestigationsllc.com/files/Dues_Report.pdf

To learn more about services and other products offered by Commercial Investigations please contact a CI representative at [\(800\)284-0906](tel:(800)284-0906) or info@commercialinvestigationsllc.com.

Stay tuned to find out what Due is up to next!

To be continued...



Meet Due Diligence Last Scene from Due

In the last edition of CI Times, Due decided to pick up and move from NY to CT. He decided to clean up his act and enter a 10 week intervention program. His dream was to become an entrepreneur, and with that avoid pesky background investigations. So, he started up a lawn care service and called it Clean Cut Clippings.

Like every small business though, Due wanted growth. He bid on a contract for the Greenville Town Park, and won the bid! Only now he needed to pass a background check. Lucky for him, Greenville Town Park went for Bargain Basement Backgrounds. It was too bad they didn’t choose Commercial Investigations LLC, because Bargain Basement Backgrounds wasn’t very thorough and missed his level one Sex offender status in NY. Due passed with flying colors and was awarded the contract.

To see Due’s past reports, view his page online at: www.commercialinvestigationsllc.com/duespage

Read previous issues of CI Times to see the full details of Due’s life at www.commercialinvestigationsllc.com



Meet Courtney Caola: Client Services Specialist

Courtney Caola, an expert in background investigations, is the Client Services Specialist at Commercial Investigations LLC. Prior to working at Commercial Investigations LLC, Courtney owned her own services company and worked as an Investigator with the United States Offices of Personnel Management. In this role, she conducted background investigations on persons seeking employment with the Federal Government. In addition, Courtney has worked with a number of other government agencies, including the Massachusetts Parole Board and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. Outside of her professional life, Courtney spends a great deal of time volunteering with several Saratoga Springs community based organizations. Courtney has proven countless times the



ability to evaluate complex situations, arriving at appropriate conclusions and effectively communicating proposed actions. Courtney has a BA in Psychology from Russell Sage College and a MA in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Please call 800-284-0906 to speak with her or email Courtney with any questions at courtneycaola@commercialinvestigationsllc.com.

Inquiry Spotlight

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

CI's Sex Offender Registry inquiry helps mitigate a company's risk of workplace violence and potential negligent hiring or retention lawsuits. CI recommends that its clients conduct a Sex Offender Registry inquiry in every state the subject has lived in, and by every name the subject has used, within the previous ten years.

According to a 1997 Bureau of Justice Statistics report, on any given day in the US, there are approximately 234,000 offenders that have been convicted of rape or sexual assault under the care, custody or control of corrections agencies. Nearly 60% of these sex offenders are under conditional supervision residing in the community. An estimated 61% of violent sex offenders confined to State prisons have a prior conviction history that resulted in a sentence to probation or incarceration. Approximately 25% of imprisoned rape and sexual assault offenders have a prior history of convictions for other violent crimes and 1 in 7 have been previously convicted of a violent sex crime.

Convictions for sexual offenses will appear on the subject's criminal record in the county or state where the offense was committed. However, oftentimes, sexual offenders will relocate to a different jurisdiction where their criminal record might not reflect the offense. Fortunately, under federal law, sexual offenders must register with the appropriate sexual offender database whenever they relocate. The U.S. Department of Justice reports that there are more than 500,000 registered Sex Offenders nationwide. According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, the recidivism rate for sex crimes is four times higher than for other offenses.

These statistics more than justify conducting a Sex Offender Registry inquiry as part of a thorough background investigations policy.

Contact CI at (800) 284-0906 or info@commercialinvestigationsllc.com for more information on CI's Sex Offender Registry inquiry.

Commercial Investigations LLC

A Licensed Private Investigative Agency

Providing the Proactive Truth with high quality Background Investigations through human intervention with an investigative approach.

Background Investigations

CI provides accurate, timely, cost-effective and fully compliant reports delivered with exceptional client service.

New York State
Department of Economic Development
Certified Woman Owned Business Enterprise
(Certification # 49494)

www.commercialinvestigationsllc.com
info@commercialinvestigationsllc.com

Cohoes NY & Harmony FL, USA

Phone: (800) 284-0906

Fax: (212) 937-3858

This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information with respect to the subject matters covered. It is distributed with the understanding that CI is not engaged in rendering accounting or legal services.