

Background check explanation sheet

National Criminal Database: Contrary to popular belief, there is no national computer of criminal records available to landlords. Although the FBI and state law enforcement agencies have access to a national computer database, it is absolutely illegal for a private company to obtain criminal information through these protected systems. Instead, private companies must obtain criminal records on a city, county, state or Federal level. Each database can and will contain different types and details of criminal information.

Federal criminal background checks: Look in almost any newspaper and you will see stories about people being charged for crimes in federal court (college students committing internet fraud, persons of all race, gender, and age committing drug/gun crimes, business executives committing fraud and embezzlement, and others committing other illegal violent acts). The federal court system has their own database not shared with the state/county/DOC databases. <http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/> There is a registration process and charges apply. If a record is found some phone calls etc may have to be made so you can completely verify the record. This is more closely considered a public record search than a true background check.

State criminal background checks: Many state highway patrols are the repository for statewide county criminal cases. They hold data on arrests where the offender was fingerprinted during the arrest process. Counties report that arrest data typically every 30 days.

<http://www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/PatrolDivisions/CRID/crimRecChk.html>
Fee based etc. See site for details and limitations.

Sex offender registry searches: There are county, state, and national sex offender registries. Counties only have information for their specific county. States only have specific information for their individual state. The national database is compiled from county and state sources based on availability. Unfortunately not all of the databases “talk” to each other. You may want to check all 3 to be on the safe side.

<http://www.showmeboone.com/SHERIFF/>

<http://www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/PatrolDivisions/CRID/SOR/SORPage.html>

<http://www.nsopw.gov/Core/Conditions.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

Sites listed are public record sites and should not be considered as a certified background check.

Department of Corrections criminal background checks: When an offender is found guilty there is a wide variety of penalties from fines, probation, jail/prison, and eventual parole from jail/prison. The Department of Corrections files hold data on those persons who are on probation or parole. The below listed website has limitations and is a public record site. A background check screening company can get you certified data and data outside the limitations of this site. This site only contains those persons currently under the supervision of the Department of Corrections in Missouri. The Federal site has also been listed below.

<https://web.mo.gov/doc/offSearchWeb/>

<http://www.bop.gov/>

County criminal background checks: Each county holds their own county criminal records for their particular county. County background checks hold the most amount of data on each case but are limited to holding information for only their county. Criminals typically have no boundary on where they commit their crimes. Check with your local county courthouse on how to obtain certified records and the limitations of data.

City criminal background checks: Cities have their own set of laws/ordinances and typically require their officers to arrest persons under those ordinances to generate revenue. Cities do not report their arrest data to the county and do not have to report their data to the state highway patrol repository. They have their own database that is not shared with the other jurisdictions. Many of these ordinances can have an affect on whether a landlord can rent their property or not. (nuisance parties, drug laws etc) City of Columbia MO: <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Court/Documents/records-check.pdf> There is a fee and some limitations so inquire with the court.

Credit: Credit reports provide a valuable resource to find address history, work history and the detection of a potential fraudulent social security number or the attempt to commit credit fraud. Additionally the credit history helps to evaluate risk factors for employment or housing that can not be obtained by any other database. Credit reports are available from any of the three major credit bureaus. There are fees for each credit report from each bureau. These are most easily obtained from a company who performs background checks.

Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC): OFAC is an agency of the [United States Department of the Treasury](#) under the auspices of the [Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence](#). OFAC administers and enforces economic and trade [sanctions](#) based on [U.S. foreign policy](#) and [national security](#) goals against targeted foreign states, organizations, and individuals. OFAC maintains a listing of these restricted individuals and counter parties for third party use. The easiest and most cost effective way to search the OFAC database is through a credit report inquiry (see credit).

Using Background check companies: Many of the above listed items may be confusing or seem time consuming to you. It may be hard for you to know what you should really get or want. Using a background check company can streamline your process. It can make it quicker, and easier. There are fees associated but you should be charging an application fee to cover your expenses. Companies can be located in the yellow pages under background checks. Accudata Credit Systems in Jefferson City MO have been a proud supporter and presenter of the Columbia Crime Free Multi Housing Program for since inception in 2000. See www.accudataservices.com to reach them.

Public Record Databases: A public record database IS NOT A BACKGROUND CHECK, but it is source to look at information. Case Net is a local public record search that does contain some valuable information. Case Net, and most every other public record database has its limitations on information, time frames, etc.
<https://www.courts.mo.gov/casenet/base/welcome.do>