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Background Checks Made More Convenient & Affordable

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray announced today a new initiative of his office, undertaken in partnership with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Speaking at the Annual Conference of the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations which is co-sponsored by the Ohio Attorney General's Charitable Law section, Attorney General Cordray indicated that Ohio's Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) has joined with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles to provide National WebCheck background checks at local deputy registrar locations around Ohio.

“Because advances in technology have made it possible for criminal background checks to be performed quickly and easily, more and more organizations and employers are finding these checks to be an invaluable safety tool,” said Attorney General Cordray. “As a result, the range of Ohioans who must obtain these checks has become vast; from doctors to daycare teachers, from church volunteers to construction workers. Through our partnership with the Ohio BMV, people all across Ohio will be able to obtain a WebCheck close to home, at the lowest possible cost. And that cost will be consistent from one location to the next.”

“The new WebCheck partnership represents another way our local deputy registrars provide reliable services to their communities,” said Ohio BMV Acting Registrar Carolyn Williams. “Ohioans are already familiar with their local deputy registrar as the place to go to obtain a driver's license, renew license plates, and more. Now the many people who must provide a background check to an employer or licensing organization can meet that need just as conveniently.”

The cost of National WebCheck background checks obtained at Ohio BMV deputy registrar locations will be \$32 for a state-level or BCI background check. A federal-level or FBI check will cost \$34. Individuals needing a check against both state and federal fingerprint databases will be able to obtain both for \$61. A listing of Ohio BMV deputy registrars offering the WebCheck service as of this month can be found at the following Internet address: <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Webchecks>.

National WebCheck is an electronic system providing fingerprint-based background checks. Electronic fingerprints and demographic information will be captured at the deputy registrar location, encrypted, then compared to the database of fingerprints maintained at BCI. If an additional FBI check is needed, a similar comparison will take place on the federal level. Results will be mailed directly from BCI to the recipient address supplied by the individual during their visit to the deputy registrar's office.

The equipment and training required to offer WebCheck services is being provided to local deputy registrars by BCI, with the help of federal grant dollars from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Approximately \$300,000 in grant funds will be used to make WebCheck equipment available to the deputy registrars. More than 100 local deputy registrar offices around Ohio will begin offering WebCheck services this month, with additional locations expected to be added in the future.

More information about BCI background checks can be found at the following Internet address: <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Services/Business/WebCheck>. For more information about Ohio BMV, go to: <http://bmv.ohio.gov>.