

SEARCH DESCRIPTIONS



Contact:

Support@MinistrySafe.com
6001 River Oaks Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76114
MinistrySafe.com | 817.737.7233

Revised 02.09.2026

Contents

Search Descriptions

Multi-Jurisdiction Database with Alias Search.....	3
Multi-Jurisdictional Database with Alias Description.....	3
Identity Research - 'Person Search' Description.....	4
National Sex Offender Registry Description.....	4
Motor Vehicle Report (MVR).....	4
County Records Search.....	5
Federal Court Criminal Search.....	5
Statewide Records Search.....	5

Add On Searches

Employment Credit Reports.....	6
Education Verifications.....	6
Employment Verifications.....	6
Reference Verifications.....	6
Continuous Monitoring.....	7

Search Descriptions

Multi-Jurisdictional Database with Alias Search

[Included in all MinistrySafe Levels]

The Multi-Jurisdictional Database with Alias Search includes Identity Research - 'Person Search' and the National Sex Offender Registry. Despite its limitations, this search is affordable for most ministries, therefore MinistrySafe offers it as a standalone product – our 'Level 1.'

If your Ministry has the budget for a deeper, more comprehensive search, it is highly recommended that a higher Level is ordered, particularly one with *county* searches (Level 3 and above). The majority of records related to sexual abuse and violent behaviors are prosecuted and maintained at the *county level*.

Although the most affordable, MinistrySafe never recommends the Multi-Jurisdictional Database with Alias Search as a standalone search.

Multi-Jurisdictional Database with Alias Description

This is a computerized search of a massive database of over 1.5 billion records, including alias names associated with a specific Social Security Number (SSN). This is a 7-year minimum search; MinistrySafe returns ALL legally reportable information for every Background Check.

This database contains records stemming from:

- State databases
- Records from state agencies, such as County Courts, Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, and Administrative Office of Courts
- The Government Terrorist Watch List and the Office of the Inspector General Registries



All records reported are verified at the source of the jurisdiction.

Additional court access fees may apply, and vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Caveat:

Though this search *sounds* impressive, it provides a *basic* Multi-Jurisdictional Database Search. This is the primary product sold by background check vendors and is commonly represented as having significant value, when in fact, its value is limited. The Multi-Jurisdictional Database Search has significant limitations, the most important of which is the *incomplete nature of the data*: not all records are available, some record sources aren't computerized, and some states or counties *do not* sell or provide their data.

Identity Research - 'Person Search' Description

[Scope: 7 years]

The 'Person Search' examines the SSN to ensure that it is within a valid range, and identifies the state and year of issuance. The number is also checked against the deceased records of the Social Security Administration, providing protection against SSN fraud. This is a 7-year minimum search.

It is essential that Ministries ask for state or federally-issued identification to ensure that the applicant matches the likeness of the person providing the application information. Misrepresenting one's identity is the most basic way an individual with a court record may gain access to children or vulnerable populations.

National Sex Offender Registry Description

A National Sex Offender Registry Search retrieves records for active registrants related to individual state sex offender registries in all 50 states, including Indian Tribes and U.S. Territories. This search provides information concerning sex offenders who are required to *publicly register* within their state as a sexual or violent offender.

Caveat:

Less than 10% of sexual abusers will encounter the criminal justice system, *ever* – much less be convicted of a registration-level offense. As well, not *all* sex offenders are required to *publicly register*: an individual with a past criminal conviction of a sexual crime may NOT be listed on the national or state sex offender registry.

Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Search

[Offered in Level 2, 4 and higher, or la carte]



The MVR Search is recommended for positions requiring driving, such as transportation of children or program participants, or *any* use of company vehicles.

Description: The MVR Search reports statewide driving records, including Commercial Driver's License status (CDL) for at least 3 years, oftentimes up to 7 years.

Additional access state fees apply.

County Records Search

[Offered in Level 3 and higher]

The majority of records related to sexual abuse and violent behaviors are prosecuted and maintained at the *county level*. County level searches reflect the most up-to-date records available from the county court of jurisdiction. County Records Search should be used as a *baseline* screening of applicants. Depending on the Level ordered, MinistrySafe runs either the applicant's *current* county of residence or an applicant's residence history.

Description: The County Records Search reports felony and misdemeanor cases, as well as some non-criminal cases. Searches go back at *least 7 years*, as permitted by the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). This search is limited to the applicant's county of residence(s).

Court access fees may apply, and vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Federal Court Criminal Search

[Offered in Level 5 and higher]

This search is particularly relevant in identifying court cases for charges related to pornographic exploitation of children and internet charges for enticing minors. As well, this search provides relevant information for screening *management and executive candidates* for white-collar and financial crimes.

Description: A Federal Court Criminal Search identifies criminal cases related to federal charges. This search scope is a minimum of 7 years.

Statewide Records Search

[Offered in our highest Level Searches]

Although this search sounds more comprehensive than the County Records Search, *all states* do not require *all counties* to report to the state. Some states require that all counties report, while others have no Statewide Records Search available. If a Statewide Records Search is available, it may provide an extra layer of coverage when running a Background Check.

Note: Some states share the same source for both state and county records. *In such states, MinistrySafe may substitute county searches for state searches.*

Description: A Statewide Records Search broadens the search for court records by checking multiple counties within the state, broadening the scope of Background Checks. Some states house records at a central repository. This search scope is a minimum of 7 years.

Court access fees may apply and vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Add On Searches

Employment Credit Reports

Description: PERSONA® reports reveal the scope of an applicant's financial relationships and performance, including debt obligations and payment history. This report is provided through Equifax and does not include a Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO) score, but supplies a *soft inquiry* into the applicant's credit history. This search scope is a minimum of 7 years.

Soft inquiries do not affect credit scores and are not visible to lenders reviewing an applicant's credit reports. A soft inquiry replicates what an applicant would see viewing their own credit report—lines of credit, loans, payment history and any collections accounts.

Education Verifications

Description: Each educational institution listed by the applicant which granted a degree or certificate will be contacted to confirm the educational information provided by the applicant. Education Verifications may include dates of attendance, degree, major or program, and graduation date, if applicable.



Additional access fees may apply if charged by the institution.

Employment Verifications

Description: Each employer listed by the applicant will be contacted to verify the employment information provided by the applicant. This report may include dates of employment, the last position held and eligibility for rehire.

Additional access fees may apply if charged by the employer.

Reference Verifications - Email ONLY

Description: Automated Reference Verifications require the applicant to provide reference contact information. Each reference is contacted by email and prompted to complete a Reference Verification concerning the applicant. This Verification is added to the applicant's Background Check.

MinistrySafe strongly recommends that Reference Verifications be conducted by the Ministry, rather than electronically. If an automated process is chosen, MinistrySafe provides reference questions keyed to child protection in automated Reference Verifications.

Continuous Monitoring

Description: Continuous Monitoring provides near real-time alerts on new arrest activity involving law enforcement among staff members or volunteers and eliminates the need to 'wait' for Background Check Renewal to learn of such activity.



For Whom?

Continuous Monitoring may be appropriate for staff members or high-profile volunteers *about whom you cannot afford to be wrong*. What would you want to know in *real-time* if a staff member or volunteer had *new arrest activity* involving law enforcement?



Available Jurisdictions:

Continuous Monitoring is currently available in these states: AL, AK, AZ, AR, CO, CT, DC, FL, GA, HI, ID, IN, IA, KS, LA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MO, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

Unavailable Jurisdictions:

Continuous Monitoring is currently unavailable in these states: CA, DE, IL, KY, MA, MS, MT, NY, and VT.