

WHAT ARE POLICE RECORDS?

There remains a lack of clarity on specifically what police are. Police services collect and retain a vast amount of information about the people they come into contact with. Police records may be created from a variety of interactions with a local police service related to non-criminal and criminal matters, and can include instances where someone:

- ❖ Had informal contact with a police officer and provided their name;
- ❖ Called 9-1-1, or was present when officers responded to a call;
- ❖ Called 9-1-1 for themselves or someone they know was experiencing a mental health crisis;
- ❖ Was involved in a police investigation as a witness, victim or suspect;
- ❖ Was arrested; • Was charged with a criminal offence (but not convicted);
- ❖ Was found guilty of a criminal offence; or
- ❖ Was convicted of a criminal offence.

Generally, police records are divided into four categories: criminal convictions, non-conviction findings of guilt, non-conviction dispositions with no finding of guilt, and police contacts. These categories of police records are detailed below.

1. CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

Sentences that result in criminal convictions:

- Imprisonment Sentence
- Intermittent Sentence
- Suspended Sentence
- Conditional Sentence
- Fine or forfeiture



2. NON-CONVICTION DISPOSITIONS: FINDINGS OF GUILT

- Absolute Discharge
- Conditional Discharge



4. NON-CONVICTION DISPOSITIONS: NO FINDINGS OF GUILT

- Charges withdrawn
- Charges withdrawn - 'alternative measures' or diversion
- Acquittal at trial
- Stay of proceedings



3. POLICE CONTACTS

- Police contact and surveillance
- Mental health apprehensions
- Arrests (but no charge)
- Victimization
- Witness



**Please note: this information is specific to adult police records only. Youth records are governed by a separate legislative framework.*

POLICE CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK

- A Police Criminal Record Check is typically used for employment opportunities where a basic criminal background check is requested. It is generally the least intrusive level of check.

CRIMINAL RECORD AND JUDICIAL MATTERS CHECK

- Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check includes criminal convictions, findings of guilt under the YCJA, absolute and conditional discharges, outstanding charges, arrest warrants, and certain judicial orders

POLICE VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECK

- The Police Vulnerable Sector Check is the third level of check and is the most in-depth. It is used when applicants are seeking employment and/or volunteering directly with vulnerable populations.

For a complete breakdown of the definitions of the various types of police records and other terms can be found at JHSO's **On the Record** publications available at:

policerecordhub.ca/ontherecord/