AMIS Background Check Policy
Approved by AMIS Board – February 4, 2020

Overview

Thanks be to God, that in our 43-year history, AMIS has not had a negative incident resulting in harm or hurting the reputation of our ministry. However, due to the times that we live in, it seems prudent to have our volunteers complete a background check before we match them with an international student through our Amigo, Thanksgiving, and Christmas International House (CIH) programs.

Although international college students are over 18, they are a vulnerable population in that they are newcomers to our city and culture. College/university international student administration officials are concerned about protecting students from those who would try to take advantage of them and doing background checks shows that we take their concerns seriously.

All international students and scholars who have received a J-1 or F-1 student visa to study in the US have gone through a vetting process by our federal government as well as having been approved to study at their institutions of higher education.

AMIS's Board has made the decision to conduct background checks on our program volunteers because personal contact information is shared and life-long friendships can result. Although nothing is guaranteed, as we grow in numbers, a background check has become a basic tool for screening volunteers used regularly by nonprofits.

We have begun using Sterling Volunteers to do our background checks at the cost of $19/background check. It's simple, all done online, has a quick return time, and the volunteer is invited to pay for part or all of their background check if they choose to.

AMIS Background Check policy:

1. Every NEW volunteer who signs up to be an Amigo, Thanksgiving, or CIH volunteer is required to do a background check.

2. We background check ALL RETURNING volunteers once every 5 years (this is standard procedure for child care workers and teachers).

3. For CIH host families, all adults ages 21 and up, living in the home need to be background checked.