

Background Investigation

After you have been nominated and before you are invited to serve, the Peace Corps initiates a background investigation, as required by law for all Volunteers. The Peace Corps contacts the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other relevant agencies that may have records pertaining to you.

If your answer to any of the questions below has changed to "yes" to, you must advise the Placement Office's legal eligibility specialist at 800.424.8580 ext.1845

Background investigations are one of several sources of information used by the Peace Corps to determine eligibility and suitability for overseas service. Applicants who have provided the Peace Corps with information that is false, misleading, or incomplete may have their invitation rescinded, or later may be separated from service.

Before accepting this invitation, please review the following questions. If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, please advise the Placement Office staff member when you email to respond to the invitation. Failure to advise the Placement Office truthfully and completely to the best of your knowledge at this time may result in the withdrawal of your invitation for Peace Corps service or future separation from service.

Since you originally filed your application for Peace Corps service:

- Has your marital status changed?
- Has your name changed due to marriage, divorce, or any other legal process?
- Have you been arrested, charged, cited, or convicted of any offense by a civilian or military court or tribunal? Report misdemeanors, felonies, "driving while intoxicated" (DWI) or "driving under the influence" (DUI) charges or citations, public intoxication, open containers, etc., as well as speeding and other traffic violations.
- Are you now facing charges for any offense (including traffic offenses), are any judgments now pending against you, or are you a party to any civil suits?
- Do you have any financial obligations (including student loans that have not been reported) that cannot or will not be satisfied prior to your arrival at the staging event?
- Do you anticipate being called to testify in any legal proceeding during your period of service?

- Have any persons become partially or totally dependent upon you for their support (whether or not they are living with you)? Include any individuals for whose support you are legally responsible, regardless of whether you actually provide support.
- Has the status of your U.S. citizenship changed?
- Have you or a member of your family been engaged in, or had any connection with, the collection, dissemination, or analysis of intelligence information? If you or your family have been employed by, or otherwise associated with, an intelligence agency or activity since you submitted your application and you have doubts about whether you can disclose the connection, please consult with that agency, preferably its Office of General Counsel, before responding.
- Have you been discharged from any branch of the U.S. armed forces on other than an honorable basis?
- Have you been employed by, or sought employment with, any agency or organization, civilian or military, or by a division of such an agency, a substantial part of whose mission includes intelligence activities?

If, at any time after you have accepted the invitation and are waiting to depart, a situation arises that would cause your answers to any of the preceding questions to change from "no" to "yes," you must advise the Placement Office's Legal Eligibility team at 800.424.8580, ext. 1845.

The sooner you advise the Placement Office of the situation, the sooner it may be able to resolve any problems that would delay or interfere with your departure. At your staging event, you will be required to sign a certification that your answers to these questions have not changed since you last reported them to the Peace Corps. Failure to advise the Placement Office of any change, at the soonest possible date, may preclude you from service.

No-fee Passport

No-fee passports are to be used by Peace Corps trainees and Volunteers for all travel during Peace Corps service. If you accept this invitation, you must apply for a no-fee passport, even if you already have a personal passport. **It can take up to six weeks for the U.S. Department of State to issue a passport, so it is essential that you immediately complete the no-fee passport application included with the invitation.** Please note that the no-fee passport will not be mailed to you after you apply. The Peace Corps' travel office will hold your no-fee passport, any necessary visas, and the international portion of your airline ticket until your staging event (when they will be given to you). The documents you submitted to apply for your no-fee passport (personal passport or birth certificate) will be returned to you at your staging event.

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