



Texas Department of Public Safety

Information for the News Media
Media Relations Office
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May 12, 2011

Electronic fingerprints now required for CHL application

The Texas Department of Public Safety no longer accepts hard-copy fingerprint cards from applicants for Texas concealed handgun licenses. All applicants are now required to submit their fingerprints electronically for their criminal background checks.

“Using electronic fingerprints allows us to speed up the application process because they provide a higher-quality print,” said RenEarl Bowie, assistant director for the DPS Regulatory Services Division. “Ninety-eight percent of all electronic fingerprints are easily read, resulting in fewer rejections for poor fingerprint quality.”

The Department attempts to use existing fingerprints on file for current CHL holders who are applying for renewal. Additional prints are only required for renewal if the existing prints do not meet quality standards sufficient to complete the required background check. Current CHL holders are notified whether they are required to submit new fingerprints.

For more information on Concealed Handgun Licensing or to schedule a fingerprinting appointment, please visit our website at:

http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/crime_records/chl/chlsindex.htm.

(PIO 2011-43)