

The importance of a Criminal Records Disclosure – what have you got to hide?

The Fellowship requires all its members to undergo a standard Criminal Record Disclosure check (CRB) or to supply a recent one.

There are two types of disclosure; standard and enhanced. The former will reveal whether the applicant has any current or spent convictions and even cautions, reprimands and warnings. The latter will delve deeper into a person's history and is necessary where the applicant's work involves coming into contact with vulnerable adults or children.

So why does the Fellowship insist on this?

We believe that as an added safeguard, consumers are entitled to expect that the person who turns up on their doorstep is not only properly trained but also has undergone a police check on the National Police Database.

Of course, the system is not perfect. The CRB would not reveal pending court appearances or convictions abroad - it is only a snap shot taken on the day the database is interrogated. Nevertheless it would give some comfort to the public. After all would you trust your loved one to a nurse, a childminder, or a teacher who has not been checked?

Should a check reveal an entry, the Fellowship will not necessarily refuse membership as the Fellowship takes its responsibilities seriously in regards to all associated legislation. Please see our CRB code of practice which ensures that all information is treated in confidence and is not disclosed to any third party. It will depend on factors such as the nature and circumstances of the offence, the sanction imposed and the date of occurrence.

The system to obtain a CRB check is simple and is not costly - a small price to pay for peace of mind. So why not have one done - what have you got to hide?

Visit the CRB website - you can even apply on-line.

www.disclosurescotland.co.uk