

Information Sheet

DBS definition of a volunteer

The DBS definition of a volunteer is defined in the Police Act 1997 (criminal records) Regulations 2002 as:

“Any person engaged in an activity which involves spending time, unpaid (except for travel and other approved out of pocket expenses), doing something which aims to benefit some third party and not a close relative”.

To qualify for a free-of-charge criminal record check, the applicant must not:

- Benefit directly from the position for which the DBS application is being submitted;
- Receive any payment (except for travel and other approved out-of-pocket expenses);
- Be on a work placement;
- Be on a course that requires them to do this job role;
- Be in a trainee position that will lead to a full time role/qualification.

For a copy of the DBS application process for volunteers booklet see:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/442312/DBS_Volunteers_Leaflets_A5_4pp.pdf