

Instant Criminal v. County Criminal

An Instant Criminal search is a mile wide and an inch deep. A County Criminal search is an inch wide and a mile deep.

Please Read Carefully

Databases vary as to the beginning date of the data contained therein: some date back several decades; others date back to the early 1990's. In general, search results from these databases show name, DOB, race, sex, offense, disposition, date of disposition, county and case number. Because these databases are updated monthly, quarterly and sometimes yearly, they should not be used in place of a **County Criminal** search, which is done by a "live" person going to the courthouse to conduct the research. All of our county searches are conducted by "live" researchers in the field, not from a database, CD-ROM, or archived data.

Please keep in mind that our **Instant Criminal** searches are "general" in scope and are provided as a "quick and economical" way of conducting a cursory search.

As stated: 1) on our website, 2) in our Terms & Conditions, and 3) in your GObackgrounds.com user account, we highly suggest that **Instant Criminal** searches should only be used as a preliminary inquiry and that a subsequent **County Criminal** search should be done before any action is taken against or on behalf of a subject.

Additionally, it is the responsibility of the client to determine if that specific **Instant Criminal** search or any ordered search meets their requirements for a specific jurisdiction or application. This can be done by clicking on the name of the **Instant Criminal** search or search: 1) located on our [Pricing](#) page, 2) in your GObackgrounds.com user account, 3) by viewing the **Description of Instant Criminal Searches** document or 4) by contacting GObackgrounds.com at service@GObackgrounds.com | 1-888-GOBACK-1 ext. 83.

The **Multi-State Sex Offenders** database contains currently registered sex and violent offenders with felony conviction records. Data has been compiled from all 50 states, The District of Columbia, and Guam. When available, a picture will be included in your search. However, a **Multi-State Sex Offenders** within a state jurisdiction will only pull results for that jurisdiction if the state has provided a DOB in its sex offender data. Therefore we recommend you also conduct a non-instant **Single State Sex Offenders** search that concentrates in a specific state. As of (04/14/09) the following states do not provide DOB's: AZ, HI, IN, LA, MA, NE, NV, PA, SD, TX, VA, WA, WI and WY.

County Criminal

County Criminal searches are conducted in a specified county in a specified jurisdiction by “live” researchers in the field that work for or are contracted by GObackgrounds.com. These researchers physically go to the courthouse in the specified county to conduct the required research. When finished, the researcher inputs the results back into our system that integrates into your final report. **County Criminal** searches are the most current and up-to-date information that exists in the background check industry. It is considered to be the “absolute best” information out there. Some counties are clerk assisted and/or have mandated court fees. We do not pad these fees. You can view these court fees from your GObackgrounds.com user account.

Professional Investigative Recommendation

It is our **Professional Investigative Recommendation** that a client employs a layering scenario when conducting criminal background checks on an applicant. What is a layering scenario? It is recommended that you select a **SSN Trace + Validation, County Criminal, Single State Criminal** and a **Federal Criminal** concentrating your efforts in the various jurisdictions detailed in the **SSN Trace + Validation** for the last 7 years and taking into account relevant geographic data from the employment application and/or resume.

If you are just going to use an **Instant Criminal** search it is highly recommended that you select a **SSN Trace + Validation** and a **County Criminal** search concentrating your efforts in the various jurisdictions detailed in the **SSN Trace + Validation** for the last 7 years and taking into account relevant geographic data from the employment application and/or resume.

A **SSN Trace + Validation** discovers the past address history of your applicant within the last 7 years and also validates the SSN by giving you the year and state issued only.

The **SSN Trace + Validation** is a guideline as to where the person may have lived and/or applied for credit. A **SSN Trace + Validation** should be used in connection with other geographical residency as derived from the employment application and/or resume. This will help determine what counties, states and federal jurisdictions to select. Also, the dates derived from the **SSN Trace + Validation** are approximations.

A **SSN Trace + Validation** does NOT give the applicant the right to work in the U.S. and does NOT link the SSN with the applicant. Only an **I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification** with a direct connection to the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration can do this. For your convenience we offer this search as well. Please contact service@GObackgrounds.com | 1-888-GOBACK-1 ext. 83 to setup this feature in your GObackgrounds.com user account.

Erroneous information, such as additional names not directly connected with your **SSN Trace + Validation** may appear. What has happened? Most likely, it is a transposition error in a digit of the SSN that has not been previously purged from the database. However, if you see multiple names and multiple locations around the country that are very different from your applicant's, then please contact us immediately at service@GObackgrounds.com | 1-888-GOBACK-1 ext. 83 for further investigative analysis.

Convictions vs. Arrests & Charges

Just because a person has been arrested or charged with a crime DOES NOT mean that he/she has been convicted. Most, if not all states prohibit employers from considering arrests records and charges when making a hiring decision. Of course each state has its own special laws which govern what an employer can and cannot do when making a hiring decision.

GObackgrounds.com is proud to be legally represented by the law firm of Seyfarth Shaw, LLP. Because of this exclusive relationship we are able to provide you with up-to-date statutes and legal guidelines for your company, for your state, from the **50 State Compliance Guide** authored by Seyfarth Shaw, LLP. For your state's answers, please contact service@GObackgrounds.com | 1-888-GOBACK-1 ext.83.