

Town of Sandisfield CORI Policy

1. Where Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) checks are part of a general background check for employment or volunteer work, the following practices and procedures will generally be followed.
2. CORI checks will only be conducted as authorized by Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB). All applicants will be notified that a CORI check will be conducted. If requested, the applicant will be provided with a copy of the CORI policy.
3. An informed review of a criminal record requires adequate training. Accordingly, all personnel authorized to review CORI in the decision-making process will be thoroughly familiar with the educational materials made available by the CHSB.
4. Prior to initiating a CORI check, the Town will review the qualifications of the applicant to determine if the applicant is otherwise qualified for the relevant position. The Town will not conduct a CORI check on an applicant that is not otherwise qualified for the relevant position.
5. Unless otherwise provided by law, a criminal record will not automatically disqualify an applicant. Rather, determination of suitability based on CORI checks will be made consistent with this policy and any applicable law or regulations.
6. If a criminal record is received from CHSB, the authorized individual will closely compare the record provided by CHSB with the information on the CORI request form and any other identifying information provided by the applicant, to ensure the record relates to the applicant.
7. If, in receiving a CORI report, the Town receives information it is not authorized to receive (e.g. cases with dispositions such as not guilty or dismissal, in circumstances where the Town is only authorized to receive convictions or case-pending information), the Town will inform the applicant and provide the applicant with a copy of the report and a copy of CHSB's *Information Concerning the Process in Correcting a Criminal Record* so that the applicant may pursue correction with the CHSB.
8. If the Town of Sandisfield is planning to make an adverse decision based on the results of the CORI check, the applicant will be notified immediately. The applicant shall be provided with a copy of the criminal record and the Town's CORI policy, advised of the part(s) of the record that make the individual unsuitable for the position and given an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of the CORI record.

9. Applicants challenging the accuracy of the criminal record shall be provided a copy of CHSB's *Information Concerning the Process in Correcting a Criminal Record*. If the CORI record provided does not exactly match the identification information provided by the applicant, the Town of Sandisfield will make a determination based on a comparison of the CORI record and documents provided by the applicant. The Town of Sandisfield may contact CHSB and request a detailed search consistent with CHSB policy.
10. If the Town of Sandisfield reasonably believes the record belongs to the applicant and is accurate, then the determination of suitability for the position will be made. Unless otherwise provided by law, factors considered in determining suitability may include, but not be limited to the following:
 - (a) Relevance of the crime to the position sought;
 - (b) The nature of the work to be performed;
 - (c) Time since the conviction;
 - (d) Age of the candidate at the time of offense;
 - (e) Seriousness and specific circumstances of the offense;
 - (f) The number of offenses;
 - (g) Whether the applicant has pending charges;
 - (h) Any relevant evidence of rehabilitation or lack thereof;
 - (i) Any other relevant information, including information submitted by the candidate or requested by the Town.
11. The Personnel Department will assist affected departments, in assessing the suitability of candidates in accordance with paragraph 10 a through i above, to ensure consistency, fairness, and protection of employment opportunities and the public interest.
12. The Town of Sandisfield will notify the applicant of the decision and the basis of the decision in a timely manner.
13. CORI information shall not be disseminated or shared with any unauthorized employees or other, but shall be maintained in confidence consistent with the obligations of law.

Revised February 7, 2023