

A criminal background report would not be complete without a search of the United States Federal District Court in the jurisdiction(s) where the applicant has lived in the previous seven years. The typical crimes associated at the federal level usually involve racketeering, embezzlement, drug distribution and smuggling, weapons violations, kidnapping and immigration issues.

These records are filed in one of the several districts across the nation by the defendants' name. Unlike the state county court system, the federal files do NOT normally include secondary identifiers such as date-of-birth, driver's license number or Social Security number, resulting in a name-match only record. This lack of secondary identifiers can produce numerous false "hits" with common last names, especially if the subject does not have a middle name.

The federal court clerks are reluctant to supply additional information to confirm or deny the name/record match. The U.S. Attorney's office is even less cooperative in these matters. Often an applicant will admit to the conviction when informed about the records. If the applicant contests the accuracy of the report, then more investigation on the case file is required.

This leaves the record researcher and the client with a few options, which are:

1. If the applicant can demonstrate that they were actively employed at the time the subject of the report was incarcerated then they can be "cleared" from being associated with the case.
2. Another option is to follow whatever procedure that the local district court has for verifying records, which usually involves an extended amount of time and involvement. HIRE~SAFE can perform this task but it could result in additional billing.
3. The employer always has the option of determining that the severity of the "possible" conviction does not represent a liability issue and overlook the record.

Prior to reporting any federal convictions the records are searched for any information contained in the case file to disqualify the subject from the case, such as their age at the time of the arrest. The HIRE~SAFE research staff will make every possible effort to minimize the impact that name-match only records can produce.

Feel free to call us at: 888 792-4473