

# Vulnerable Sector Check Report



## **New Reporting Will Help Ensure Safety of Patient Care and Integrity of the RN Profession**

With a mandate to ensure safe nursing care for the people of Saskatchewan and continuous quality improvement in regulation, the SRNA is introducing Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) reporting beginning June 1, 2017.

### **What is a VSC report?**

A VSC report is a best practice for confirming whether an individual has a criminal record, and any record of suspensions (formerly pardons) for sexual offences. It includes a search in a national data base maintained by enforcement authorities including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), city police or a police service from the country where an applicant currently resides or has formerly resided.

Requiring a VSC report will apply to new members or former members who are renewing their practicing licence after a two-year lapse.

### **Who must submit a VSC report for licensure?**

A VSC will only be required by those who are seeking:

- A Graduate Nurse licence
- Initial registration as a RN or RN(NP)
- A practicing licence after a two-year time lapse

# Vulnerable Sector Check Report continued

## Will a currently-licenced RN or RN(NP) need to provide a VSC report?

No, currently licenced RNs or RN(NP)s are not required to submit a VSC report.

## What is the purpose of a VSC report?

It provides the SRNA with essential information to assess the professional suitability of an applicant to work or interact with vulnerable members of society, such as children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

## Why does the SRNA require a VSC report?

The absence of a criminal conviction is one component for determining an applicant's good character or professional suitability to practice registered nursing. The public must have confidence in the nursing profession, and trust they will receive safe, competent care from RNs who practice according to standards and the Code of Ethics.

## Where can I get a VSC report?

Canada: contact your RCMP detachment or City Police.

USA: contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Other countries: contact the SRNA at [international@srna.org](mailto:international@srna.org) for assistance.

## Is there a cost for a VSC report?

There may be a fee for this service. The enforcement agency will provide you with direction for obtaining a VSC report and the fee, if it is applicable. Any costs associated with a VSC are the responsibility of the applicant.

## Does the SRNA have a time limit for issuing a VSC report?

Yes, the SRNA must receive a VSC report that has been issued within the previous six (6) months of the application date for licensure.

## Who will have access to my application information including my VSC report?

The SRNA has a privacy policy that adheres to the Health Information Privacy Act (HIPA) and the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA). Your application for licensure is reviewed by only those who are required to do so. A copy of your document is maintained in your electronic file with restricted access.

## Could I be denied registration if I have been convicted of a criminal offence?

The SRNA follows an administrative policy for reporting a criminal offence. Each application is considered on a case-by-case basis. If your VSC report requires a review, you will be informed of the process. Information can be found at [www.srna.org](http://www.srna.org) under Registration/Licensure, Immediate Reporting of a Criminal Offence.

## Understanding the VSC Report

The bylaws supporting the VSC report were approved by the SRNA membership at the May 2016 Annual Meeting, and by the Minister of Health in December 2016. The following are questions and answers to help SRNA members learn more about this new requirement.

If you have any questions about this new requirement, contact us at [renew@srna.org](mailto:renew@srna.org).