Questions for the February 24th SAFIS/CORI Conference!

\*Please note, no question is too silly to ask\*

\*Duplicated questions are OKAY and ENCOURAGED to add\*

* What happens after we notify the commissioner of a background check issue?
* How do we contact folks with SAFIS issues when there is no contact information on either the receipt or the results?
* How long should we keep SD for “unknowns”?
* Review background check rules for high school helpers, volunteers, others under 18 yo or 21 yo.
* When running a fingerprint check, only one and done, unlike CORIs that are run every 3 years?
* What if an employee has something on his/her record after we get the initial SAFIS results and he/she does not notify the District.
* When I receive results with a record from an "unknown", I send a copy to DESE, but am I also required to send the "unknown" a copy with the SAFIS-FORM-004, How to Change, Correct, or Update your National Criminal History Record Response? Prior to the new SAFIS system, we truly did not know who the "unknowns" were, but now their contact info is provided.
* Has anyone ever contacted an "unknown" to ask why they provided your district's code for results?
* I had a teacher submit fingerprints in September one year. He planned to sub for our district at the end of the school year. When he was hired, I asked our Superintendent to determine suitability based on a report received months in advance. What is the time frame for Supt. to make the determination on results received from an "unknown" who now becomes "known" to the district? Also, how long should I retain the results of the "unknowns"?
* I recently received a copy of a suitability determination from a day-to-day sub we hired. Should I confirm the suitability directly with the previous district, or request he have it sent to me directly from the district?
* When does SAFIS plan on combining the SAFIS and CORI? Many of our parent chaperones/volunteers are fingerprinted, but not CORI'd, so I have to contact them to complete the CORI before they are able to chaperone/volunteer.
* Do we, the school or district, have any responsibility to keep or put together suitability letters for "unknowns" (those who have records sent to us even though they are not employed at school they are sending results to.). We are receiving more and more of these.
* My experience has been that most school districts have been great about sharing and sending the suitability determination letters, Having said that , we have had a few run in with a couple schools where we are not getting letters at all or in a timely manner. (i.e. a Montessori School refusing to send a copy but stating that the employee in question was fingerprinted). We have just turned it back on the prospective employee to assist us in obtaining the record or going and paying for another fingerprint session. Is there any recourse for the school or employee when you meet up with non-compliance?
* Can a new hire hand deliver their Suitability report or must you request it always from the processing district they received it from.
* Can we give the actual SAFIS report to the person it pertains to and can you tell me where that is in writing?
* Upon request, are we allowed to give the individual a copy of their own SAFIS result or Suitability Determination?
* May we send a copy of a suitability determination to a college for the purpose of student teaching? If not, may we provide it to the individual if they request?
* When we have new hires that need to start right away and have been CORI checked but do not have their fingerprints done yet, do you still let them start? I need to know how strict I have to be on this topic with new hires.
* Can we accept a Suitability Determination from another state?
* Is there correspondence to the person, noting the denial (with a copy of their charges)? Is there also a reporting system to the State?
* We have Shakespeare & Co. (theatre group) come in and work with our high school students. Shakespeare & Co. have done a CORI on their staff. Do I need to do another CORI and do they need to have fingerprints done? They do work with groups of our students after hours.
* 1) If we receive SAFIS results for a Coach do we have to report them to DESE. He is not DESE certified/licensed.
* 2) When filling out a Suitability Determination for an employee who does have a "record" but who we deem Suitable, do we mark the Suitability Determination Suitable OR Suitable w/Record? Would that be against discrimination laws? and 3) which really ties into question 2; if we deem that employee suitable and only mark that on the determination and then we send that determination to another district per their request, they wouldn't know the person even had a record. What is the point of sharing these determinations then. The "law" should never have said that we "may"; it's making it more complicated.
* I have a past employee asking to have her fingerprinting suitability determination sent to another district; however, when she was an employee and had her fingerprinting done, I had to report her results to DESE (while still deeming her suitable). Can I forward a suitability determination for her?
* I have a question who we can share fingerprint suitability with. I have a person who was fingerprinted to work at an ECC entity and does not want to undergo fingerprinting a second time to now work with X Public Schools (ESE) entity. The person in question wants me to accept a letter of suitability from the day care center. I have explained that the two entities are not allowed to share results, but I am receiving some pushback from a school committee member . Does anyone know where in the law it addresses this issue.
* As summer is here, a lot of districts are hiring minors (work permits and 17 year olds) as interns, substitutes, and camp counselors. With SAFIS and CORI not showing any data for minors or juvenile offenses should we be requiring them to be fingerprinted? It seems to me counterintuitive and a waste of money.... but, what are we required to do?
* Do you do Cori’s and Sori’s on all subcontractors,
* How many years are we required to keep suitability determinations? I have student interns and subs ask me over the course of 2 years to forward their sd’s to districts they have applied to for teaching or substituting.

Timing of destruction of SAFIS results (I keep a hard copy and an electronic file, so addressing both would be great). I would like to have a brief discussion concerning this, particularly since we are getting more and more requests to send SDs to other districts for employees who have left the district.

* If a SAFIS report has a result which does NOT affect teacher licensing, why is DESE encouraging to send anyway? The law and regulations do not require it.
* Do we share suitability determinations with charter schools?
* Timing of destruction of SAFIS results (I keep a hard copy and an electronic file, so addressing both would be great). I would like to have a brief discussion concerning this, particularly since we are getting more and more requests to send SDs to other districts for employees who have left the district.
* Can we accept a Suitability Determination letter directly from the prospect or does it have to come from the school department?
* Do we still need to run SORI checks if we have fingerprints?
* Do SORIs need to be rerun periodically? If yes, how often?
* Should we provide Suitability Determination letters to private schools, if requested?
* When is it required to provide FP results to the employee? Same question for CORI results?
* May an employee start if they provide a receipt from MorphoTrust but we do not yet have the results?
* When should we have volunteers fingerprinted, if at all?
* May we provide CORI and FP results to folks who have requested them for themselves?
* Is there anything they can do to get the agency that did the fingerprinting to give us more information if we call to inquire about an arrest. When you contact the agency for more info to understand the arrest, they can’t talk to you! Can they add a release to the fingerprint application?
* Will fingerprints ever need to be redone?
* Do we need to rerun SORIs? If so, how often?
* Where can we find FP arrest codes?
* Do business office staff who are not working with children or housed in a school required to be fingerprinted?

SAFIS wish list:

* The website keeps the results indefinitely, so we don't have to keep paper copies. Right now we not only have to keep our active employees, but we also have to keep our results for every person who ever sent us their fingerprints (whether they decided to work for us or not - example: substitute teachers who are getting prints done and sending them to multiple districts), plus all our employees who have left in case they decide to work for another district in the future, and want a suitability letter.
* Results don't automatically download a pdf file when you view the results. Our computers don't have the encryption required for them.
* A central database for "suitability" - so that districts can go in and not see results, but see employees that are "suitable" for a district (rather than having employees ask districts to send suitability letters to other districts.)

CORI wish list

* Results don't automatically download a pdf file when you view the results. Our computers don't have the encryption required for them.
* The site presents along with the list of people, whether they had results or not (like the SAFIS search results). Then we can keep that report, and only keep the detailed results of the people with CORI. Or better yet... the website keeps the results for three years, so we don't have to keep paper copies.
* When requesting a SDL from another district for a new hire, we are taking the word of that district. What if that person did have something on their original report, but they were also deemed suitable? The district requesting the SDL would have no idea of the incident on the report because we wouldn’t see the original. There could have been a position they were hired for that has nothing to do with the incident on the report (example: recent DUI), but the requesting district is asking for a SDL for this candidate to be hired for a bus driver (where a recent DUI could potentially be a problem). Can the district that originally had the employee fingerprinted send the SAFIS report as well as the SDL to the requesting district?
* I just had a district ask me to have an SDL signed by our current Superintendent. The original SDL was signed by Superintendent before. Does a new SDL need to be signed by the current Superintendent before sending it off to the hiring school district?