

Public Record Update

August 2015

■ Pennsylvania Reduces Fees for State Criminal Record Checks

Two significant price reductions recently took place for criminal record checks provided by the PA State Police.

Per [HB1276](#) and effective July 15, 2015, the cost for criminal record check decreased from \$10.00 to \$8.00. Also, the fee for a volunteer criminal record check was completely waived for checks conducted on certain volunteers, such as those working with children and are required to have this check as per Title 23. Note that under the PA law, volunteers who are residents in the state for at least 10 years must obtain the State Police Criminal Record Check and the Child Abuse History Clearance. Newer Pennsylvanians must be cleared with a fingerprint check performed by the FBI.

See the PA State Police site at www.psp.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx for details on record checks fees. See <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp> for the online access system - PATCH .

■ Washington Increases Civil Case Limit Ceiling for District Courts

In the state of Washington, the Superior Court is the court of general jurisdiction and the District Court is the court of limited jurisdiction. The District Courts have concurrent jurisdiction with Superior Courts over misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor violations, and civil cases limited under a set figure. Effective July 24, 2015, this **civil limit was increased from \$75,000 to \$100,000.**

Therefore any record searches that involve an amount between \$75,000 and \$100,000 should now be performed at both courts.

At this time, the [state judicial web page](#) has not been updated to reflect the new amount, nor have the majority of the county web pages been updated.

■ Shannon County, SD Changes Name to Oglala Lakota

On July 1, 2015, Shannon County, South Dakota changed its name **to Oglala Lakota.**

This is a result of a November 4, 2014 ballot issues when the voters in Shannon County voted by a wide margin to change the name of their county.

The county is home to the Oglala Sioux Tribe and approx. 92% of the county's population (14,218 per the U.S. Census) is Native American.

Per state law (§7-1-72), the formal change of the name took place on July 1, 2015. This was after passage of a Joint Resolution by the SD 2015 Legislature and a May 1, 2015 Proclamation by the Governor.

See <http://oglalalakota.sdcounties.org/files/2015/04/proclamation-name-change.jpg>.

Motor Vehicle News

Delaware Increasing Motor Vehicle Fees, Including Driving Records

Delaware is increased a number of motor vehicle fees this fall, including an increase for a driving record from \$15.00 to \$25.00. Record certification increases from \$20.00 to \$30.00. There is no fee increase associated with obtaining title or registration records. [HB140](#) was signed by the Governor on July 1st and is expected to take effect on or about October 1, 2015. The effective date may vary based on overall time needed for computer programming.

Other fees that will increase include: issuance of duplicate licenses, titles, and registrations; for tag transfers; for issuing a title; for placing a lien on a title; and for reinstatement of revoked or suspended licenses. Most increases range from 40% to 100% and some increases are much higher. The extra funds will be used to support the [Transportation Trust Fund](#).

Licensing of Mopeds in North Carolina

Effective July 1, 2015, all mopeds must be registered with the North Carolina DMV. State statute defines a moped as having "two or three wheels, no external shifter, with a motor not to exceed 50 cubic centimeters of piston displacement and up to 30 mph propulsion on a level surface."

A driver license is not required to operate a moped, but operators must be at least 16 years of age.

2015/2016 MVR Access and Decoder Digest Released - With New Print Cycle

The [July edition](#) of this 832 page book, published annually since 1988, reflects a new annual release date. Many state legislative sessions end in the late spring. Therefore, to include as many forthcoming changes as possible, the release date of a new edition of *MVR Access and Decoder Digest* has been changed from January to July.

We welcome your comments and observations about this newsletter. Please address your comments to Michael Sankey at mike@brbpublications.com or call 800-829-7475.

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