



News Release

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School Bus Driver Background Checks Offered

Instant notification will immediately disclose criminal contacts in Hamilton County

CINCINNATI --- Hamilton County schools are being offered criminal background checks for their bus drivers against Hamilton County court records. Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Greg Hartmann sent notices to all 23 public school districts and over 100 private schools in the county about this opportunity today.

“As Hamilton County’s court records keeper and an agent of our justice system, I am compelled to utilize the information we manage to keep our community safe. School bus drivers have a tremendous responsibility to care for the safety and security of our children. We must use all tools available to us to ensure that only the best drivers are on the road and interacting with our children,” said Hartmann.

The schools who participate will provide a confidential list of their bus drivers to the Clerk of Courts to be run against Hamilton County court records. The instant notification program will disclose all criminal contacts that these individuals may have had with the Hamilton County justice system to the school district. The reports will include information on convictions ranging from rape, murder, child endangering and domestic violence to low level drug citations, DUIs, fraud and stalking orders.

“Current state law regulating bus drivers is just not strong enough when considering the best interests of our children. The current law too narrowly focuses on driving records and does not focus enough on comprehensive background checks done on a more routine basis,” said Hartmann.

The bus driver background checks will be provided at no cost to the school or school district. Hartmann decided to initiate this background check program for school bus drivers after achieving great success with a similar program involving foster parents.

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Attachment: Hartmann letter to Hamilton County public school districts and private schools