



Office of the Sheriff

Towns County, Georgia
Sheriff Christopher M. Clinton
706-896-4444



August 1, 2013

Dear Citizen,

It is with much regret that we are no longer able to perform the service of providing criminal background checks for private individuals/groups. Historically, the Office of Sheriff has been happy to assist our local citizens, businesses, schools, churches, and youth programs by allowing them to send their potential employees and volunteers for a criminal background check.

Unfortunately, HB 1176, also known as Georgia's "Criminal Justice Reform," has resulted in a number of significant impacts to the local citizen. A portion of HB 1176, which took effect July 01, 2013, deals with records restrictions. Due to the tremendous burden and cost of complying with this portion of the law and the tremendous liability we would incur upon the county, we are no longer able to provide criminal background checks for non-criminal justice purposes.

However, as your sheriff, I have instructed our staff to assist you in any way possible to ensure that you are able to receive the information you need. Georgia law requires that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation - Georgia Crime Information Center comply with your request for records.

In an effort to relieve any inconvenience, we have prepared the attached information to assist you with making your request for criminal history information to the Georgia Crime Information Center. As always, if there is anything more that we can do to assist you in this, or any other concerns you may have, please do not hesitate to bring it to our attention.

Respectfully,

Chris Clinton

Sheriff Chris Clinton
Towns County, GA
Region III Vice President, Georgia Sheriffs' Association



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EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Information regarding **CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS**

Towns County Sheriff's Office will no longer run criminal histories due to the

Criminal Justice Reform Act also known as HB 1176

You may access your criminal history online by following the steps below:

Visit: www.gbi.georgia.gov

Click on the "Services" tab at the top

Click on "Obtaining Criminal History Record Information" in blue

Click on the link in blue to access the Georgia Felon Search website (www.felonsearch.ga.gov)

Click on the link entitled, "Click Here to Search Now!"

This will take you to the Georgia Felon Search website where you will follow the prompts and enter required information and payment information.

The cost is \$15 payable by credit or debit card.

Any questions concerning criminal history records should be directed to the Georgia Crime Information Center at **404-244-2639**