



Bad Guy of the Month Club

A Criminal Record Comparison

We searched 4 popular criminal databases...see what we found!

Orca Information's Database	Nationwide Criminal	Instant Statewide	WA State Patrol
04/28/87 Indecent Liberties, Guilty 04/28/87 Rape in the 2nd Degree, Guilty Alaska Court Records: 01/01/93 Assault, No Contest Plea 08/11/93 Forcible Entry/Detainer (EVICTION) 06/22/94 Forcible Entry/Detainer (EVICTION) 12/31/96 Domestic Violence Pre Conversion, Dismissed 12/28/93 Domestic Violence Pre Conversion, Dismissed 07/13/95 Expired Plates, Dismissed 07/11/92 Speeding, No Contest 06/09/94 Fishing closed Waters, Bail Forfeiture 08/27/96 Failure to Stop for Stop Sign, Not Guilty 08/02/93 Domestic Violence Pre Conversion, Dismissed 10/04/93 Domestic Violence Pre Conversion, Dismissed 12/31/96 Domestic Violence Pre Conversion, Dismissed Registered Sex Offender: Yes	No Records Found. Registered Sex Offender: Yes	No Date—Assault, No Contest Plea	No Records Found.

Happy Valentine's Day!

What people in the know are saying about ORCA...

“Brittany, Thank you for your hard work! You do a great and thorough job and I really appreciate it.” - C.R.

“Thanks -- looks like we have ourselves some tenants! Thank you with your persistence with the last piece” - Leslie

“THANKS FOR THE QUICK TURN AROUND :)” - B.L.

“Thanks for your help; you all do a great job over at ORCA :)” - Linda

ORCA ♦ WISDOM ♦

Enthusiasm

He who is afraid to manifest enthusiasm lest his dignity suffer is not likely to have much dignity to lose by and by. Enthusiasm is the steam which makes the engine go.

- B.C. Forbes

Check out our new website!
www.ORCAinformation.com

And

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“We can tell you more about them than their mother”



Instant Background Check Systems: Case of Mistaken Identity

Kathleen Casey, long out of work, with exhausted unemployment benefits and about to lose her apartment is offered a job with a pharmacy. She only has to pass a background check – simple, right? Wrong! A *National Instant Court Record Data Base* pulls up a 14 count criminal charge on her for larceny against an elderly couple. Only problem – it's the wrong Kathleen A. Casey. Instead it's a person from a nearby town who is 18 years younger. Kathleen is therefore denied the job at the pharmacy she so desperately needs even though her own criminal record is clean.

This scenario is repeated time and time again as the business of providing instant background checks booms. But the instant or digital background check system is fraught with problems as it scrapes public databases for criminal and civil records and fails to catch errors that would be obvious to the human eye. This system which buys and sells a person's most sensitive information as a commodity and ruins reputations and hopes for employment in a climate where jobs are few and far between.

The Associated Press investigated, including a review of thousands of pages of court filings and interviews with dozens of court officials, data providers, lawyers, victims and regulators. They discovered that mistakes can start with inaccurate filing of information by courts or law enforcement. But the biggest culprits are the exploding amount of companies compiling data from courts all over the country for the sake of quick & easy instant information, just to make a buck. There is little regard for the devastation caused to the victims.

In some cases the problem begins with their automated formulas misinterpreting the information. In other instances records wind up assigned to the wrong person with a common name. Some companies blame weather for glitches – while a computer is offline a person's information can "fall" into someone else's files. Another common problem is either the inability to or simply lack of incentive to update their records to reflect expunged files that are too old – many do not check for errors at all! Companies will actually pay the mandatory monthly fee for updates and then never download them. Updates that provide critical "fixes" to the database they are selling.

In most cases personal identifiers (matching name with Social Security numbers, date of birth, etc) are not included on these instant websites. This would help prevent mistakes. The data bases cannot give the full picture of a person's information that a background check professional can viewing the actual court record direct from the court's own site. There are too many details missed in a digital scraping of records (instant data bases). Being able to compare these details against the applicant's personal information is critical.

Sharon Dietrich of the Community Legal Services in Philadelphia states that today the firm fields about twice as many complaints about inaccurate background checks as five years ago. Some of the biggest companies accused in lawsuits of perpetrating inaccurate background checks are **CoreLogic, SafeRent, Thompson West, CourtTrax** (North Carolina has revoked their licenses). Lawsuits over this issue abound across the country as these instant sites crop up in the hundreds. The suit often includes the employer who requested the information.

Some states, exasperated by mounting errors in the data, have stopped offering wholesale subscriptions to their records in spite the revenue they may receive.

Data providers are regulated by the Federal Trade Commission and required to keep accurate records. However the business is growing too fast for the agency to police properly and building a case is difficult. The data providers are left to police themselves for the most part and it's obviously not effective.

Kathleen Casey and many, many others have worked hard to straighten out their records with the instant data base companies – a very daunting and almost impossible task. Casey settled her lawsuit with the *National Instant Court Record Data* company who finally corrected her records. She then successfully landed a job. Unfortunately, since there are hundreds of companies out there selling this inaccurate information, she will never know when another will rear it's ugly head.

- Jordan Robertson, AP