

To: N.C. Cooperative Extension
Date: April 18, 2016
Subject: Policy 01.25.18 – "Programs that involve the Participation of Minors"

Greetings Extension colleagues,

Last Tuesday, April 12, 2016, we received a [university memo](#) from Eileen Goldgeier, vice chancellor and general counsel that, among other things, provided a new regulation (01.25.18) on "Programs that Involve the Participation of Minors." The regulation sets forth standards for all NC State University-sponsored or affiliated activities, events and programs that involve the participation of minors.

In conversation with Shawn Troxler, NC State legal counsel, this regulation applies primarily to district- and state-level programs, events and activities. Thus, while county-level events will not be held to the same registration/event approval requirements, our Extension events, activities, programs and travel taking place at district, state and national levels will need to be approved. Beginning immediately (there will be a slight delay until the university has set up the registration process), state-level activities, events and programs will need to be registered/approved through the CALS Dean's Office.

The background check requirements for all volunteers and employees will impact county agents more than anything. Going forward, all volunteers for 4-H/youth programs will need to complete a background check every two years. While this is a substantial change from our current policy, it is certainly reasonable; some states require annual background checks.

What is still uncertain is who will be conducting the background checks. While most background checks have traditionally been completed by the counties, there is some thought that all future background checks may be conducted through NC State Human Resources or a private contractor. As soon as that point has been clarified, we will forward the information.

In closing, county agents responsible for county-level events need not worry about meeting the reporting/approval requirements of REG 01.25.18. Those responsible for district, state and national-level events will need to be sure those events/programs are approved/registered. I will be contacting Dean Linton to see if our office can meet those requirements by submitting an annual calendar of events along with supporting documentation. That approach would allow us to meet the intent of the regulation with a one-time submission of documents. Lastly, we will all need to be diligent in monitoring background checks for all volunteers and paid employees who are working with youth in our programs and events.

Thank you for all you do to protect our youth as they participate in the many programs, events and activities across North Carolina. Feel free to contact me directly with any questions you may have. As more information becomes available, I will pass it along.

Mike

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