

HSPD-12 Rap Back Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question: Why are contractor employees being enrolled into Rap Back?

Answer: In accordance with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's Security Executive Agent and the Office of Personnel Management's Suitability & Credentialing Executive Agent memorandum issued January 2021, Federal agencies have been directed to fully enroll their Non-Sensitive Low Risk (Tier 1), Moderate Risk (Tier 2) and High Risk (Tier 4) Public Trust population (includes contractor employees) in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Record of Arrest and Prosecution Back (**Rap Back**) program by September 30, 2023.

Question: What is Rap Back?

Answer: Rap Back stands for Record of Arrest and Prosecution Back. This is a FBI service that allows authorized government agencies to receive notification of activity on individuals who hold positions of trust who are under criminal justice supervision or investigation, thus eliminating the need for repeated background checks on a person from the same applicant agency.

Question: What does Rap Back look for?

Answer: An FBI Rap Back check includes a list of public Federal convictions (felony and misdemeanor). It may include basic information about the charge, conviction, and resulting incarcerations.

Question: How far back does a Rap Back check go?

Answer: The FBI provides the entire criminal history record for the individual. There is no time limitation.

Question: How does Rap Back fit with Continuous Vetting?

Answer: Rap Back uses fingerprints to continuously monitor criminal databases for any current or past criminal information reported to the FBI for that individual, which provides a continuous vetting model and an ongoing ability to gather real-time information about an individual's criminal record.

Question: What happens if Rap Back reveals something?

Answer: The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) will process the information in accordance with established processes and procedures. DCSA will then forward the information to GSA. Contractor employees will then be contacted and given the opportunity to address the criminal activity.

Question: How does an arrest affect my background investigation?

Answer: The effect will depend on the type of arrest, charge, and the circumstances of the criminal activity.

Question: Does Rap Back require fingerprints?

Answer: GSA enrolls an individual in Rap Back using a set of classifiable fingerprints. Contractor employees will be required to enroll for fingerprints if none are available or on file. If an individual's fingerprints are unclassifiable, they will be required to retake their fingerprints via the USAccess, or hard copy fingerprint cards. Contractor employees will be provided with instructions on how to begin the process and the timeframe by which to complete enrollment and fingerprinting.

Question: How will contractor employees know if they have to be fingerprinted?

Answer: Contractor employees will be contacted if fingerprints are needed by the Office of Mission Assurance, HSPD-12 Branch via hspd12.security@gsa.gov

Questions: What happens if an individual refuses to get fingerprinted?

Answer: Contractor employee cooperation if/when contacted to provide updated fingerprints is imperative. Contractor employees will not be permitted to work on a GSA contract until they have completed the required steps.

Question: Who do we contact if we have questions?

Answer: Please reach out to hspd12.security@gsa.gov for security-related questions or your Contracting Officer (CO) or Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) for contractual questions.

Question: When will contractor employees be enrolled in Rap Back?

Answer: All Non-Sensitive Low Risk (Tier 1), Moderate Risk (Tier 2) and High Risk (Tier 4) Public Trust population contractor employees must be enrolled in Rap Back no later than September 30, 2023.