

Initial Licensure

Q: Can I get the fingerprint-based background checks done prior to submitting my application to the SC Real Estate Commission?

A: NO. You will receive instructions on how to get fingerprinted for your background checks from a member of staff after the Commission has received your initial exam or reciprocity application. As explained in the instructions you will receive, you only need to get fingerprinted one time. This set of fingerprints will be used for both the state and national fingerprint-based criminal records checks. Due to the privacy requirements for fingerprint background reports, the Commission should not receive and you should not begin the process of obtaining the background checks until your application is received.

Q: Do I need to get fingerprinted and have the background checks done separately?

A: You are required to get the following background checks:

Fingerprint-Based Checks:

The state fingerprint-based criminal background check is conducted by the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), and the national fingerprint-based criminal records check is conducted by the FBI. For both fingerprint-based background checks, information on getting fingerprinted for these background checks will be provided to the initial applicant once the Commission receives their complete application.

Social Security Number-Based Check:

The Commission has approved SR&I to conduct the additional social security number-based criminal records check. After sending their applications to the Commission, applicants can go to the SR&I website ([SCLLR-REC Background Check](#)) and request the social security number-based criminal records check. Upon completion of this report, it will be sent to the Real Estate Commission.

Q: Do I need to get fingerprinted again if I have a CWP, TSA clearance, clearance with another licensing board, or other recent criminal background clearance?

A: YES. The SC Real Estate Commission cannot use background checks that were obtained for other licensing, security clearance, or weapons permitting purposes.