

## Baird, Kevin (WSP)

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**From:** Baird, Kevin (WSP)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 7:48 AM  
**Subject:** WSP SAFE Update for FFLs

Hello! I know it's only been a week since my last report, but we are finding a few issues that we need to make everyone aware of, in hopes that we can provide you better service and faster background checks.

First off, we are still getting a lot of questions regarding SAFE, that are covered in the FFL User training PLEASE ensure all users are viewing the training: <https://rise.articulate.com/share/Njdn5x8e5HQQ69-0xeMK7PU1ObbVx2P->

Second, please remember that the final step of the background check process is for you to enter the 'date of transfer' into SAFE. Without that, the 'proceed' will stay on your dashboard, even though the NTN will have expired, and the Firearm Transfer Application (FTA) data (if applicable) will not be sent to Department of Licensing (DOL). We are monitoring and notifying FFLs who have 'proceeds' more than 15 days old and sending out reminders.

Third, we are having a significant number of background checks submitted with incorrect names and/or dates of birth. The names are either misspelled or simple typographic errors. And the dates of birth are simply entered wrong.

Why does this matter to you? Beyond your responsibility as an FFL to accurately obtain and submit the background check information, our Secure Automated Firearms E-Check (SAFE) system is able to auto-adjudicate certain 'clean' background checks (people with nothing on their criminal history or other databases we check). The problem is, when the name is misspelled or the date of birth is not correct, we don't get the appropriate data responses back (like the person's criminal history), that would prevent SAFE from auto-proceeding the background check. Meaning, that a gun goes out the door to someone who shouldn't have it. This also messes up what is sent to DOL for firearms requiring the FTA (wrong name or wrong date of birth, means the DOL record isn't updated as required by law).

So...PLEASE...double check the information you are entering, and again review it on the last page before you hit 'Submit'. As we catch them, we will be cancelling them and notifying you to resubmit the check, which will result in a new NTN, and make your customer have to wait additional time unnecessarily.

Also along the lines of incorrect names, we have had to cancel many background checks with transposed first and last names. Currently SAFE is designed to take the transferee name in this order: First Name, Last Name, Middle Name. Because of the number of transposed names that are occurring, we are willing to change the order of entry in SAFE, to be in line with the 4473: Last Name, First Name, Middle Name. But, we don't want to do it, if the majority of you like how it is. To let us know, please take 15 seconds to respond to our survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YD6MH9V>

Let's talk about the fees. We are not assessing fees for ANY background checks until January 1, 2024. This means, once you onboard with SAFE, you no longer have to mail an \$18 SAR fee to DOL, nor will you be assessed for those fees.

And finally, again we are encouraging all of you to onboard as soon as you get your letter. Why?! Many reasons, but, if you onboard now, you'll be more comfortable with SAFE before the holidays (entry process, knowing where the check is at in the process, etc)...and your customers may enjoy a MUCH shorter wait for their firearms!

Thank you,

Kevin

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