

FOIDs and Fingerprints

You've heard conflicting opinions about FOID applications and fingerprints. Some insist that FOID applications are going to require fingerprints. Others say it isn't possible. All you know is, you can't seem to get a straight answer. Well, here you go:

"430 ILCS 65/4"

(a-25) Beginning January 1, 2023 (emphasis added) each applicant for the issuance of a Firearm Owner's Identification Card may include a full set of his or her fingerprints in electronic format to the Illinois State Police, unless the applicant has previously provided a full set of his or her fingerprints to the Illinois State Police under this Act or the Firearm Concealed Carry Act.

The fingerprints must be transmitted through a live scan fingerprint vendor licensed by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. The fingerprints shall be checked against the fingerprint records now and hereafter filed in the Illinois State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history records databases, including all available State and local criminal history record information files. 430 ILCS 65/4(a-25))

The operative word in this enacting statute is, "...may..." This is entirely voluntary. Why would somebody do this? Because of this additional new language below:

"430 ILCS 65/3.1"

"(b-5) By January 1, 2023, the Illinois State Police shall by rule provide a process for the automatic renewal of the Firearm Owner's Identification Card of a person at the time of an inquiry in subsection (b). Persons eligible for this process must have a set of fingerprints on file with their application under either subsection (a-25) of Section 4 or the Firearm Concealed Carry Act." (430 ILCS 65/3.1(b-5)) (effective Jan. 1, 2023)

The idea here is, if properly obtained and submitted fingerprints (meaning from a vendor authorized to provide prints *specifically* for FOID and CCL) are on file – including if previously-submitted for a concealed carry license – when a card holder purchases a firearm from a federally-licensed firearms dealer (FFL), who conducts a background check through the Firearm Transfer Inquiry Program (FTIP), if the purchase is approved, the FOID will be automatically renewed for a period of 10 years from the date of the purchase approval.