

Meet The McDowell Agency, Inc.

At The McDowell Agency, Inc. we are very excited about the new partnership with MAVA. Some information about us, we are a local Minnesota company based in St. Paul. We have been in business for over 25 years and are licensed by the Minnesota Board of Private Detectives and Protective Agent Services. Our specialty is working with the non-profit sector. Over 65 percent of our clients are non-profits.

Our corporate philosophy is to provide our clients with the ultimate client experience we achieve this by providing our clients with top of the line customer service (no automated responses we actually answer our phone and our client retention rate is over 99%), fast turnaround time (in 2005 our average turnaround time was 47 hours) and the most competitive pricing in the industry.

At The McDowell Agency, Inc. we also believe that it is not just information we are dealing in, but people's lives and futures that is why we are committed to accuracy and are experts in our industry. All of our account representatives are licensed private investigators in addition to having four year degrees in criminal justice. A criminal background check report will not be released to you until a licensed private investigator has reviewed it.

Did you know?

If you are relying on the Minnesota BCA as a standalone search that you may be putting your members, volunteers and employees at risk. By the BCA's own admission their records are incomplete; in their letter they acknowledge that "additional records may exist at the county or city level". The most accurate criminal records are kept at the county level.

*The McDowell Agency, Inc. believes the BCA database is a useful and necessary screening tool. We include it in every package we offer. However, it is dangerously inadequate as a standalone service, and effective only when used in conjunction with record searches done at the county level. That is why The McDowell Agency, Inc. developed **True Background Screening™**, which combines database and a county criminal record check for the most comprehensive screening program available.*

A “no record” result at the BCA could mean the subject has no criminal history, however other possibilities exist: the subject may have a criminal record under another name, the name may have been entered incorrectly or never entered at all.

While a standard BCA check will uncover some felonies and other convictions reported by the counties, the most current information on a subject can only be found by doing a county search. BCA records are only as complete and accurate as the information reported from local police departments and the courts. Ultimately a large number of records are never reported to the BCA and can only be found at the county level. Also, a time lag exists in reporting as records are updated only after the individual has gone to court, been convicted and sentenced.

The McDowell Agency, Inc. was recently endorsed by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators as the preferred provider of background checks for Minnesota schools. Many school districts were only doing a BCA check for their teachers. We did a random sampling of the schools we serve and found the following records, which never made it into the BCA, but were found with a county criminal record check. As you can see these are not minor offenses.

- ♦ Kidnapping—Facilitate Felony or Flight*
- ♦ Assault in the 5th Degree—Domestic*
- ♦ Aggravated Robbery—Armed w/ Dangerous Weapon*
- ♦ Terroristic Threats*
- ♦ Resisting/Interfering with Arrest & Disorderly Conduct*
- ♦ Indecent Exposure*

Whether you are doing the BCA check or nothing at all contact The McDowell Agency, Inc. today for a free assessment of your background check programs.