

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PBSA Statement: Michigan Court Rule Will Halt Hiring**

*The Professional Background Screening Association Urges the Michigan Court Administrative Office to Rescind Harmful Rule*

**RALEIGH, NC** – Today, the Professional Background Screening Association (PBSA) decried a new Michigan State Court Administrative Office rule that will have significant negative consequences on hiring and housing in Michigan. The new rule, effective July 1, will require Michigan courts to redact dates of birth (DOBs) from public records.

“This rule will effectively eliminate the ability of professional background screeners to conduct background checks in Michigan. Ninety-four percent of employers conduct background checks and, in many instances, doing so is required by law. The consequence of this rule is stark: employers will be forced to halt hiring all together or look outside of Michigan to fill open positions.

“Professional background screeners rely on identifiers like DOBs to conclusively determine whether or not a criminal record belongs to a particular individual. Without access to this information, background screening is not simply more challenging, it is often impossible.

“There are hundreds of thousands of unemployed Michiganders, and many employers are finally beginning to hire again as the state steadily rebounds from the coronavirus pandemic. This rule will present an insurmountable barrier to employment that will have devastating consequences for countless individuals in the Great Lakes State.

“The rule will also prevent landlords from conducting background checks on prospective tenants, leaving our housing communities less safe.

“We strongly urge the State Court Administrative Office to swiftly rescind this rule. The livelihoods and safety of Michiganders are at stake.”

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**About the Professional Background Screening Association**

Founded as a non-profit trade association in 2003, the Professional Background Screening Association exists to advance excellence in the screening profession. PBSA was established to represent the interest of companies offering employment and tenant background screening

services. PBSA currently represents over 600 member companies engaged in employment and tenant background screening around the world.