



IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO: All Applicants

FROM: Rosemary McCool, Director, Division of Registrations

SUBJECT: Licensure and Criminal History

Thank you for your interest in becoming a licensed* professional within the Division of Registrations. Before you submit your application, please be aware of a few facts regarding criminal conduct, convictions, and disciplinary actions in other states.

The mission of the Division of Registrations is “public protection through effective licensure and enforcement.” One way the Division safeguards consumers is by issuing licenses to fully qualified, competent, and ethical applicants.

During the licensing process – and depending on the specific application – the Division will ask whether you have ever been disciplined in any state, arrested, charged, convicted, or pled guilty to a crime. An arrest, subsequent criminal conviction, or disciplinary action is not an automatic disqualification from licensure. Instead, the appropriate board or program will look at the facts surrounding the criminal conduct and disciplinary action to determine whether you are fit for licensure. You should know that licensure is a privilege, not a right. One thing you must do to obtain the privilege is to be completely honest on your application.

Be sure to list all relevant complaints, disciplinary actions, arrests, charges, or convictions in response to the licensure questions. Failure to fully disclose could constitute grounds alone for denial of your application or revocation of your license. More important, avoid some of the common excuses we have heard from people who failed to disclose, such as:

- My attorney told me I didn’t have to disclose the criminal conduct or disciplinary actions.
- I didn’t think the prior conduct had anything to do with the profession.
- I didn’t think the disciplinary action, arrest, charges, or conviction was still on my record.
- I didn’t think it was subject to disclosure because I received a deferred sentence/judgment.

Remember, there is no excuse not to disclose disciplinary actions and criminal conduct. Even after licensure, you are still required to notify your professional licensing board or program about subsequent convictions and disciplinary actions in other states.

The Division conducts audits of its licensing database against several criminal and national disciplinary databases. This allows the Division to verify the truthfulness of your application and track subsequent criminal and disciplinary conduct after initial licensure. Keep in mind, you will not necessarily be revoked or denied a license if you have been disciplined, arrested, charged or convicted, but you will most likely be denied or revoked if you fail to disclose it.

**The word "license" is used as a general term. While most of the professions and occupations are licensed, others may be registered, certified, or listed. For precise terminology and requirements related to a profession or occupation, please consult the [website](#) of the appropriate board or program.*

