

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND

Criminal Background and Externship/Clinical Disclosure

To: Prospective Program Applicants

The Licensure/Certification organizations (Florida Board of Massage Therapy /DBPR/AMCA, etc.) make decisions about licensure based upon a number of questions on the application and on an individual basis. The application (or background screening) that indicates a criminal history is considered a non-routine application and must be reviewed by the board staffs and possibly referred to the Board or other Allied Health credentialing body for action.

Each application is reviewed on its own merits. The certifying/licensing boards have created guidelines for specific offenses to be cleared in the board office; however, the staff cannot make determinations in advance as laws and rules do change over time. Violent crimes and repeat offenders are of particular concern. Evidence of rehabilitation is important to the Board Members/ licensure or certification organization when making licensure decisions.

The only permanent barrier to licensure in Florida is not having your civil rights restored. Some felony convictions cause a person's civil rights to be taken away. The applicant is required to send civil rights' restoration documentation at the time of application for licensure.

The Board may either issue a license under conditions such as probation, supervision, additional education, or may deny your application. If drugs or alcohol are a concern, the Board may require the applicant to undergo an evaluation and to sign a contract with the Intervention Projects.

Clinical facilities may limit or prohibit students with criminal histories from participating in clinical experiences. Other options may not exist for the student to complete required clinical hours in order to obtain a degree/diploma; thus, such a student may not be eligible for licensure/certification.

The licensure application requires disclosure of any criminal history and the disposition of all cases prior to Board review. Entry into the program is the prospective student's decision based upon the knowledge that he/she may, or may not, be granted a license/certificate. All of the above factors should be taken into consideration prior to making a decision about a health career.

Student Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

School's Representative: _____