



DISQUALIFYING OFFENSES CRIMINAL HISTORY FACT SHEET

Currently, there are eleven offenses that are *automatic bars* to obtaining a nursing license for applicants who entered a prelicensure nursing education program after June 1, 2003. This means that the Board of Nursing (Board) is prohibited from issuing a license to a person who has pled guilty to, been convicted of, or has a judicial finding of guilt for one of the offenses listed below.

•Aggravated Murder • Murder • Voluntary Manslaughter • Felonious Assault •Kidnapping • Rape • Aggravated Robbery • Aggravated Burglary • Sexual Battery • Gross Sexual Imposition • Aggravated Arson • or a substantially similar law of another state.

The Board is also prohibited from issuing a license to a person who is required to register as a sex offender.

In addition, the Board may propose to deny an application, or place restrictions on a license granted, for a conviction of, a plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, a judicial finding of guilt resulting from a plea of no contest to, or a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction or pretrial diversion for the following: (1) any felony; (2) a crime involving gross immorality or moral turpitude; (3) a misdemeanor drug law violation; or (4) a misdemeanor in the course of practice. **In regard to these four types of offenses, the offenses are not automatically disqualifying. The Board reviews the facts of each case on an individual basis. The offense may or may not result in a proposed action to deny licensure.**

The Board does not have the authority to make a determination or take action until an application has been filed. If an applicant has a criminal history, the Board conducts a thorough investigation and considers a number of factors, including but not limited to: whether the applicant has made restitution, completed probation and/or otherwise been rehabilitated; the age of the offense; the facts and circumstances underlying the offense; and the total number and pattern of offenses.

Please also be advised that although the Board may grant a license to an applicant who has a criminal offense history, an individual may be restricted from working in certain settings based on his or her criminal history due to federal and state laws, which require criminal records checks prior to employment in certain settings, and which may impose absolute or discretionary bars to employment in certain patient care settings, for example, in facilities or settings involving care provided to older adults or children. *See, e.g., Ohio Administrative Code 173-9-07; 3701-60-07; 5123:2-2-02; 5160-45-07.*

Similarly, the Board cannot answer questions regarding one's eligibility to attend nursing school or participate in clinical instruction. Nursing programs vary in regard to enrollment criteria, so it is recommended that you contact the nursing program to determine whether you are eligible to enroll. Note that it is fraudulent for a third party, such as a nursing program faculty member, to submit a license application attesting to be the license applicant.