Nursing Criminal Background Check Information

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? This question is asked on the Arkansas State Board of Nursing application for Practical Nurse licensure. This application is completed after the successful completion of the program at ASU- Beebe and must be completed prior to the graduate taking the licensure examination.

Students convicted of a crime may enter and complete the Practical Nursing program at ASU- Beebe. However, after completion of the program they may be required to meet with or appear before the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to discuss their eligibility to take the licensure examination. They may not be allowed to take the licensure examination. When application is made, the Board will notify the student of the paperwork necessary to complete and return to them. Persons convicted of a crime may not be eligible to take the NCLEX-PN for Arkansas licensure.

The Student will be required to sign a form stating the following during orientation: "The criminal background check law (ACA17-87-312) contained in the Practical Nursing handbook has been discussed. I understand that if I have ever been convicted of a crime, I may be denied eligibility for licensure. I may be required to meet with or appear before the Arkansas State Board of Nursing before the decision is made to grant me permission to take the licensure examination. The ASU- Beebe Practical Nursing Program does not make any guarantees regarding the outcome. This law has been reviewed and discussed."

Anyone with questions regarding this may contact the head of the Practical Nursing department or the Arkansas State Board of Nursing at: 501-686-2700 or write them at University Tower Building, Suite 800, 1123 South University, Little Rock, AR  72204.

NURSE PRACTICE ACT
17-87-312. Criminal background checks.
(a) Each first-time applicant for a license issued by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall apply to the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police for a state and national criminal background check, to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
(b) The check shall conform to the applicable federal standards and shall include the taking of fingerprints.
(c) The applicant shall sign a release of information to the board and shall be responsible to the Department of Arkansas State Police for the payment of any fee associated with the criminal background check.
(d) Upon completion of the criminal background check, the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police shall forward to the board all information obtained concerning the applicant in the commission of any offense listed in subsection (e) of this section.
(e) Except as provided in subdivision (l)(1) of this section, no person shall be eligible to receive or hold a license issued by the board if that person has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, or been found guilty of any of the following offenses by any court in the State of Arkansas or of any similar offense by a court in another state or of any similar offense by a federal court:
(1) Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;
(2) Murder in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-10-102 and murder in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-10-103;
(3) Manslaughter as prohibited in § 5-10-104;
(4) Negligent homicide as prohibited in§5-10-105;
(5) Kidnapping as prohibited in§5-11-102;
(6) False imprisonment in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-11-103;
(7) Permanent detention or restraint as prohibited in§5-11-106;
(8) Robbery as prohibited in § 5-12-102;
(9) Aggravated robbery as prohibited in § 5-12-103;
(10)Battery in the first degree as prohibited in §5-13-201;
(11) Aggravated assault as prohibited in §5-13-204;
(12) Introduction of controlled substance into the body of another person as prohibited in §5-13-210;
(13) Terroristic threatening in the first degree as prohibited in §5-13-301;
(14) Rape as prohibited in §§ 5-14-103;
(15) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110;
(16) Sexual assault in the first degree, second degree, third degree, and fourth degree as prohibited in §§ 5-14-124 - 5-14-127;
(17) Incest as prohibited in §5-26-202;
(18) Offenses against the family as prohibited in §§5-26-303 - 5-26-306;
(19) Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree as prohibited in §§5-27-201;
(20) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-203;
(21) Permitting abuse of a child as prohibited in§5-27-221(a)(1) and (3);
(22) Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media, transportation of minors for prohibited sexual conduct, pandering or possessing visual or print medium depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child, or use of a child or consent to use of a child in a sexual performance by producing, directing, or promoting a sexual performance by a child as prohibited in §§5-27-303 - 5-27-305, 5-27-402, and § 5-27-403;
(23) Felony adult abuse as prohibited in § 5-28-103;
(24) Theft of property as prohibited in § 5-36-103;
(25) Theft by receiving as prohibited in§5-36-106;
(26) Arson as prohibited in§5-38-301;
(27) Burglary as prohibited in§5-39-201;
(28) Felony violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act §§5-64-101 -5-64-608 as prohibited in §5-64-401;
(29) Promotion of prostitution in the first degree as prohibited in §5-70-104;
(30) Stalking as prohibited in §5-71-229;
(31) Criminal attempt, criminal complicity, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy as prohibited in §§5-3-201, 5-3-202, 5-3-301, and 5-3-401, to commit any of the offenses listed in this subsection;
(32) Computer child pornography as prohibited in §5-27-603; and
(33) Computer exploitation of a child in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-605.

(f)(1)(A) The board may issue a nonrenewable temporary permit for licensure to a first-time applicant pending the results of the criminal background check.

(B) The permit shall be valid for no more than six (6) months.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (l)(1) of this section, upon receipt of information from the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police that the person holding the letter of provisional licensure has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, or has been found guilty of, any offense listed in subsection (e) of this section, the board shall immediately revoke the provisional license.

(g)(1) The provisions of subsections (e) and subdivision (f)(2) of this section may be waived by the board upon the request of:

   (A) An affected applicant for licensure; or
   (B) The person holding a license subject to revocation.

(2) Circumstances for which a waiver may be granted shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
   (A) The age at which the crime was committed;
   (B) The circumstances surrounding the crime;
   (C) The length of time since the crime;
   (D) Subsequent work history;
   (E) Employment references;
   (F) Character references; and
   (G) Other evidence demonstrating that the applicant does not pose a threat to the health or safety of the public.

(h)(1) Any information received by the board from the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police pursuant to this section shall not be available for examination except by:

   (A) The affected applicant for licensure, or his authorized representative; or
(B) The person whose license is subject to revocation or his or her authorized representative.

(2) No record, file, or document shall be removed from the custody of the Department of Arkansas State Police.

(i) Any information made available to the affected applicant for licensure or the person whose license is subject to revocation shall be information pertaining to that person only.

(j) Rights of privilege and confidentiality established in this section shall not extend to any document created for purposes other than this background check.

(k) The board shall adopt the necessary rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this section.

(l)(1) For purposes of this section, an expunged record of a conviction or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to an offense listed in subsection (e) of this section shall not be considered a conviction, guilty plea, or nolo contendere plea to the offense unless the offense is also listed in subdivision (l)(2) of this section.

(2) Because of the serious nature of the offenses and the close relationship to the type of work that is to be performed, the following shall result in permanent disqualification:

(A) Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;
(B) Murder in the first degree as prohibited in §§ 5-10-102 and murder in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-10-103;
(C) Kidnapping as prohibited in § 5-11-102;
(D) Rape as prohibited in § 5-14-103;
(E) Sexual assault in the first degree as prohibited in §§ 5-14-124 and sexual assault in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-14-125;
(F) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in §§ 5-27-203 and endangering the welfare of a minor in the second degree as prohibited in §§ 5-27-204;
(G) Incest as prohibited in §§ 5-26-202;
(H) Arson as prohibited in §§ 5-38-301;
(I) Endangering the welfare of incompetent person in the first degree as prohibited in §§ 5-27-201; and
(J) Adult abuse that constitutes a felony as prohibited in §§ 5-28-103.