

**POSITION STATEMENT
TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS'
COMMITTEE ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**

Criminal Background Check Policy

Health care consumers are dependent upon professional licensing boards to conduct appropriate screening of applicants. The Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners' Committee on Physician Assistants has the responsibility protecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the State of Tennessee and to that end has a duty to exclude individuals who pose a risk to the public health, safety and welfare. One means of predicting future behavior is to look at past behavior. Checking whether applicants for licensure have a criminal history and examining the nature of that history can provide significant information for boards to use in making licensure decisions. To that end, the Board of Medical Examiners' Committee on Physician Assistants asks all new applicants to obtain a criminal background check and have the results transmitted to the Committee for examination. In most cases, the fingerprints are clear and easily readable. However, some individuals cannot get readable fingerprints. For applicants with unreadable prints, the Board of Medical Examiners' Committee on Physician Assistants adopts the following policy relative to unreadable fingerprints:

In all cases where applicants fingerprint cards are unreadable, the applicant shall be required to come to the state of Tennessee and submit to a FBI/TBI fingerprint **scan** through the State of Tennessee' approved vendor or its equivalent as determined by the board.

The Committee shall require the applicant to submit to an FBI/TBI fingerprint scan through the State of Tennessee's approved vendor or its equivalent as determined by the Committee or its equivalent in the state the applicant is located in.

For applicants with unreadable prints, the Committee shall accept criminal background checks on an applicant's name, social security number and other vital statistics when an individual has unreadable prints after the applicant has made at least two (2) attempts complying with the Committee's policy.

Adopted by the Board of Medical Examiners' Committee on Physician Assistants on this 14th day of January 2011.

Adopted by the Board of Medical Examiners on this 25th day of January 2011.