

TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

POLICY REGARDING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR MEDICAL DOCTOR AND MEDICAL X-RAY OPERATOR APPLICATIONS

The Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners has the responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Tennessee and to that end has a duty to exclude individuals who pose a risk to the public health, safety and welfare. 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 and as required by T.C.A. § 63-1-116, the Board of Medical Examiners requires all new applicants to obtain a criminal background check (“CBC”) and have the results transmitted to the board for examination.

A criminal background check obtained for licensure purposes is valid for six (6) months from the date listed on the CBC results. If six months pass without the licensure application being completed for any reason, a new CBC must be obtained and sent to the Board in order to complete the application.

In most cases the fingerprints are clear and easily readable. However, some individuals do not have readable fingerprints. For applicants with unreadable prints, the Board of Medical Examiners adopts the following policy relative to unreadable fingerprints:

For applicants not licensed in any other jurisdiction, the Board shall require the applicant to come to the state of Tennessee and submit to an FBI/TBI fingerprint scan through the State of Tennessee’s approved vendor or its equivalent as determined by the Board. For applicants licensed in other jurisdictions, the board 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 board or its equivalent in the state the applicant is located in. For applicants who have made two (2) attempts to obtain a CBC and whose fingerprints remain unreadable, the Board will accept a CBC on the applicant’s name, social security number and other vital statistics.

Adopted by the Board of Medical Examiners January 12, 2015.