Disclosure of discipline, arrest or conviction

During the licensing process, the Board asked whether you have ever been disciplined in any state, arrested, charged, convicted, or pled guilty to a crime. An arrest, subsequent criminal conviction, or disciplinary action is not an automatic disqualification from licensure. Instead, the board will look at the facts surrounding the criminal conduct and disciplinary action to determine whether you are fit for licensure. You should know that licensure is a privilege, not a right. One thing you must do to obtain the privilege is to be completely honest on your application.

Be sure to list all relevant complaints, disciplinary actions, arrests, charges, or convictions in response to the licensure questions. Failure to fully disclose could constitute grounds alone for denial of your application or revocation of your license. More important, avoid some of the common excuses we have heard from people who failed to disclose, such as:

- My attorney told me I didn't have to disclose the criminal conduct or disciplinary actions.

- I didn't think the prior conduct had anything to do with the profession.

- I didn't think the disciplinary action, arrest, charges, or conviction was still on my record.

- I didn't think it was subject to disclosure because I received a deferred sentence or judgment.

Remember, there is no excuse not to disclose disciplinary actions and criminal conduct. Even after licensure, you are still required to notify the board about subsequent convictions and disciplinary actions in other states.

The Board may conduct audits of its licensing database against several criminal and national disciplinary databases. This allows the Board to verify the truthfulness of your application and track subsequent criminal and disciplinary conduct after initial licensure. Keep in mind, you will not necessarily be revoked or denied a license if you have been disciplined, arrested, charged or convicted, but you may be denied or revoked if you fail to disclose it.