

Potential Bars for Licensure as a Nurse

The Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) requires a criminal background check for all graduates applying for licensure. Graduating from a nursing program does not assure ASBN approval to take the licensure examination. Eligibility to take licensure examination is dependent on meeting requirements set forth by the ASBN Nurse Practice Act and Rules. Anyone who has pleaded guilty, nolo contendere or found guilty of any of the offenses stated in ACA §17-87-312 (listed below) may be ineligible to obtain or hold a nursing license in Arkansas. Additional information is available at

<http://www.arsbn.arkansas.gov/lawsRules/Pages/nursePracticeAct.aspx>

17-87-312. Criminal background checks.

(a) (1) 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.

(2) At the time a person applies to an Arkansas nursing educational program, the program shall notify the applicant in writing of the provisions and requirements of this section.

(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, a person shall not be eligible to receive or hold a license issued by the board if that person has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or has been found guilty of any of the following offenses by a 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 a controlled substance into the body of another person as prohibited in § 5-13-210;

- (13) Aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer or an employee of a correctional facility, § 5-13-211, if a Class Y felony;
 - (14) Terroristic threatening in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-13-301;
 - (15) Rape as prohibited in § 5-14-103; NURSE PRACTICE ACT 24
 - (16) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110;
 - (17) Sexual extortion, § 5-14-113;
 - (18) Sexual assault in the first degree, second degree, third degree, and fourth degree as prohibited in §§ 5-14-124 -- 5-14-127;
 - (19) Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;
 - (20) Felony offenses against the family as prohibited in §§ 5-26-303 -- 5-26-306;
 - (21) Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-201;
 - (22) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-205 and endangering the welfare of a minor in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-27-206;
 - (23) Permitting abuse of a minor as prohibited in § 5-27-221(a);
 - (24) 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;
 - (25) Computer child pornography as prohibited in § 5-27-603;
 - (26) Computer exploitation of a child in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-605;
 - (27) Felony adult abuse as prohibited in § 5-28-103;
 - (28) Felony theft of property as prohibited in § 5-36-103;
 - (29) Felony theft by receiving as prohibited in § 5-36-106;
 - (30) Arson as prohibited in § 5-38-301;
 - (31) Burglary as prohibited in § 5-39-201;
 - (32) Felony violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, §§ 5-64-101 -- 5-64-510, as prohibited in the former § 5-64-401 and §§ 5-64-419 -- 5-64-442;
 - (33) Promotion of prostitution in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-70-104;
 - (34) Stalking as prohibited in § 5-71-229; and
 - (35) 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.
- (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. NURSE PRACTICE ACT 25
- (g) (1) The provisions of subsection (e) and subdivision (f)(2) of this section may be waived by the board upon the request of:
- (A) An affected applicant for licensure;
- (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 or her 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) Aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer or an employee of a correctional facility, § 5-13-211, if a Class Y felony; NURSE PRACTICE ACT 26 (E) Rape as prohibited in § 5-14-103;
 - (F) Sexual extortion, § 5-14-113;
 - (G) 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;
 - (H) Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;
 - (I) Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-201;
 - (J) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-205;
 - (K) Adult abuse that constitutes a felony as prohibited in § 5-28-103; and
 - (L) Arson as prohibited in § 5-38-301. History Acts 1999, No. 1208, § 4; 2001, No. 303, §§ 2-4; 2003, No. 103, §§ 1, 2; 2003, No. 1087, § 15; 2003, No. 1386, § 1; 2003, No. 1449, § 1; 2005, No. 1923, § 2; 2011, No. 570, § 121; 2013, No. 302, § 1; 2015, No. 1047, § 1; 2017, No. 367, §§ 17, 18; 2017, No. 492, § 1; 2017, No. 664, §§ 11, 12.