

Criminal Background Check Information for New Pharmacists

Effective January 1, 2018

Notice: Minnesota law and Board policy now require that all first-time applicants for pharmacist licensure in the state of Minnesota complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check effective January 1, 2018. See [Minn. Stat. § 214.075](#).

With growing concern regarding the safety and well-being of patients, the Minnesota State legislature enacted [Minn. Stats. §214.075](#). This law requires all individuals applying for initial licensure as healthcare professionals in the state of Minnesota to complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check (CBC). The Board of Pharmacy will require applicants for initial pharmacist licensure to complete a CBC **effective January 1, 2018**.

To facilitate the process for new applicants, the Minnesota Health Licensing Boards have cooperatively established a Criminal Background Check Program to help meet this requirement, and the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy has adopted a policy that all applicants for a new pharmacist license complete a criminal background check prior to license approval.

The licensure process will involve submitting an application for licensure, payment of application and CBC fees, and the completion of the Minnesota Criminal Background Check packet. Applicants must submit fingerprints and complete the forms in the packet sent by the CBC Program staff. All documents are forwarded to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The results are provided to the Board of Pharmacy to be used as part of the evaluation of qualifications for licensure.

We request your help to inform new applicants of the requirement so they are prepared to have a CBC conducted. Processing time for a criminal background check is at least two to three weeks. Additional time may be required if further investigations have to be conducted. We are working diligently to make this process as easy as possible. However, your help in getting the word to your students is greatly appreciated and will help them work smoothly through the application process.

Sincerely,

Cody Wiberg, Pharm D, MS, RPh
Executive Director