Many jobs in Pennsylvania require licensing or certification beyond a degree that may be difficult to obtain if an individual has been convicted of an alcohol-related offense.

Some alcohol-related offenses include:

- Attempting to purchase, purchasing, consuming, possessing or knowingly and intentionally transporting alcohol (when under 21)
- Misrepresentation of age to purchase or attempt to purchase alcohol
- Purchasing and/or furnishing alcohol to minors
- Carrying or manufacturing false identification
- Driving under the influence (DUI)

For more information:
- lcb.pa.gov
- ra-lbeducation@pa.gov
- 800.453.PLCB (7522)
- Hearing Impaired TDD/TTY 717.772.3725
- PLCB Alcohol Education
Social Media

About 43% of employers are using social media to screen job applicants. This means that what individuals post or share could impact his/her chances of landing a job in certain fields. An image of an individual drinking underage and showing disregard for the law in various manners could be an indication of poor moral character to a prospective employer.

The courts in the commonwealth have equated the phrase “good moral character” with the absence of evidence that an applicant has engaged in acts of moral turpitude or “anything done knowingly contrary to justice, honesty or good morals.”

An applicant who has been charged with furnishing alcohol to minors may find it difficult to become employed in certain fields where there is interaction with minors.

Criminal Record

A criminal record may impede a job applicant’s chance of being hired. Considerations are given to the nature and gravity of the offense or conduct, the time that has passed since the offense or conduct and/or completion of the sentence and the nature of the job held or sought.

Some jobs require a valid PA driver’s license for employment. If convicted of a DUI with a license suspension, an applicant may be eliminated from consideration for that job.

An applicant who has been arrested for public drunkenness or disorderly conduct due to alcohol consumption may find it difficult to become employed in certain fields.

Professional Licenses

All professional licensing boards are authorized by statute to consider an applicant’s criminal convictions in making licensure decisions and taking disciplinary actions. Before issuing a license to an applicant, in most cases, the licensing board’s commission must be satisfied that the applicant is of “good moral character.”

Other Considerations

In today’s competitive job market, an internship may set an applicant apart from another. Internship opportunities may require the potential intern to apply via an application for consideration. It is probable that an applicant charged with carrying false identification will not receive preference to applicants with the same qualifications but without charges.

Section 9124 of the PA Crimes Code directs state licensing agencies to consider convictions of an applicant, but the convictions alone shall not preclude the issuance of a license, certificate, registration or permit. Section 9125 of the PA Crimes Code allows potential employers to use criminal history record information in the hiring process. Felony and misdemeanor convictions may be considered only to the extent to which they relate to the applicant’s suitability for employment in the position for which he/she has applied.

Pennsylvania Boards & Commissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board/Comission</th>
<th>State Board of Pharmacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Board of Alcoholics Examiners</td>
<td>State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Board of Accountancy</td>
<td>State Board of Examiners in Nursing Home Administrators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Board of Accountant Examiners</td>
<td>State Board of Funeral Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Board of Barber Examiners</td>
<td>State Board of Landscape Architects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers</td>
<td>State Board of Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Board of Chiropractic</td>
<td>State Board of Real Estate Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Board of Cosmetology</td>
<td>State Board of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Board of Crane Operators</td>
<td>State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Board of Dentistry</td>
<td>State Board of Veterinary Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Board of Dental Health</td>
<td>State Board of Optometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Board of Dietetics</td>
<td>State Board of Osteopathic Medicine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1. Title 18 PA Crimes Code


