



New Mexico Medical Board
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ATTENTION ALL APPLICANTS

STATE AND NATIONWIDE

CRIMINAL HISTORY SCREENING REQUIRED

The New Mexico Medical Board was created by the State Legislature in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare. Its statutory mandate is to protect the public from the improper, unprofessional, incompetent and unlawful practice of medicine. In the fulfillment of that mission, the NMMB has joined the majority of states in the country by requiring all applicants for license to submit to a state and nationwide criminal background check.

What is a criminal history record?

The nationwide criminal history record includes information concerning a person's arrests, indictments or other formal criminal charges and any dispositions arising there from, including convictions, dismissals, acquittals, sentencing and correctional supervision, collected by criminal justice agencies and stored in the computerized data bases of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the national law enforcement telecommunications systems, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) or the repositories of criminal history information of other states.

Will the criminal background check slow down my license application?

No. There will be absolutely no delay in the Board's timeline for processing completed license applications. In order for your application or reinstatement to be considered complete, the Board office will need to receive verification that you have completed your background check from IDEMIA (background check processing entity). Neglecting to complete the required background check process would delay license issuance because your application will be considered incomplete. If the background screening reveals a felony or a violation of the Medical Practice Act, the applicant or licensee will be notified, and the Board will determine what action may be taken.

How frequently am I going to have to submit to a background check?

ONE-TIME-ONLY. Recent advancements in technology mean that each applicant will only have to submit to a single combined state and national background check, rather than a background check at each renewal; a new background check will only be required if new information about the licensee becomes available or if DPS changes the fingerprint background check service.

What if my criminal history screening reveals an arrest?

The Board will consider each instance where a background check reveals relevant information very carefully. It will take into consideration all aspects of the situation, including the type of offense, when the offense occurred, and any evidence – or lack thereof – of continued problems. The Board predicts (based on statistical information from other states that conduct background checks) that there will be very few disciplinary actions resulting from the screenings. The Board's intention is not to uncover each and every past indiscretion however minor which resulted in an arrest and charges with the goal to punish and invoke disciplinary action. The Board is committed to its statutory mission—to protect the public—and therefore, will use every tool available to uncover and investigate the most egregious actions.

What if I suspect my criminal history screening may reveal an arrest and I can't remember if—or I forgot to—report it to the Board?

The Board only intends to consider the actual infraction and as stated before, will consider all relevant aspects of the arrest. Of course, the Board expects full and honest disclosure. The initial application for a NM license and every license renewal application thereafter requires NM physicians to disclose any arrest or conviction they may have had. However, the Board is not conducting these background checks for the purpose of identifying or prosecuting any historical instances of failure to disclose. Nevertheless, you are well advised to voluntarily report a previously undisclosed violation to the Board prior to the criminal background check. And again, the Board does not contemplate any allegations based on failure to disclose.

Why can't you use the criminal history screening when I previously applied to the board or from my employer or university?

The FBI does not allow criminal background check documentation to be shared from agency to agency or from one employer to another. If you supplied us with prints in the past the fingerprint cards are no longer accepted by the FBI.

What if I refuse to submit to a criminal history screening when I renew my license?

Because the law requires a criminal history screening, refusing to submit fingerprints with your initial or renewal application will result in an incomplete application and your license will not be issued or renewed. You may voluntarily choose not to renew and let your license lapse with no disciplinary action. Reference Part 7, Subsection C of Section 13 NMAC. A physician may inform the Board that he does not wish to renew an active license to practice in New Mexico and will voluntarily allow the license to lapse. A voluntarily lapsed license is not valid for practice in New Mexico.

New Mexico Criminal History Background Check Instructions

All applicants are required to complete a criminal history background check submitted through IDEMIA.

All applicants must register with IDEMIA at <https://nm.state.identogo.com/>

1. The reason is “NM Medical Licensure” (ORI# NM920230Z)
2. Applicants must register prior to completing your fingerprint cards or live scans.
3. Applicants must make an appointment during available days and hours of operation. Appointments are required.
4. Applicants will need to bring proof of identity with one of the acceptable forms of identification. Please visit https://www.identogo.com/uploads/general/Acceptable-Identification_New-Mexico.pdf for a list of acceptable identification.

Out of state applicants-

1. If you live out of state, fingerprint cards application. Please see attached instructions.
2. You must register prior to completing your fingerprint cards or live scans.
3. Applicants must make an appointment during available days and hours of operation. Appointments are required.
4. Applicants will need to bring proof of identity with one of the acceptable forms of identification. Please visit https://www.identogo.com/uploads/general/Acceptable-Identification_New-Mexico.pdf for a list of acceptable identification.

You may find a live scan facility by going to <https://www.identogo.com/locations>