



## **TERMINAL DISTRIBUTOR OR WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTOR OF DANGEROUS DRUGS LEGAL & DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS**

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The required legal & disciplinary questions on a terminal or wholesale distributor of dangerous drugs application provides the opportunity for the Board to review the facts and circumstances related to a particular case to determine its potential connection, if any, to the issuance of a license. The purpose of such questions is to act as a safeguard against the diversion of dangerous drugs and protection of confidential patient information by requiring disclosure of information necessary to protect the health and safety of the public.

The following guidance provides information about the legal and disciplinary questions on the application for a terminal or wholesale distributor of dangerous drugs.

*NOTE: This guidance does not apply to applicants for a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs with an office-based opioid treatment (OBOT) classification. A separate guidance for this application can be accessed here: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/legalobot](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/legalobot)*

**Q1:** Who is covered by the applicant legal & disciplinary questions? Does this apply to all employees, agents, or contractors of an entity, even those that do not work on-site?

**A1:** The questions include the following:

- The business entity
- Owner
- Operator
- Corporate officers, including: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, CEO, CFO, or any equivalent position
- Partner(s)
- Sole proprietor
- Employees responsible for the provision of patient care at the facility (this includes contract prescribers and other healthcare professionals)
- Any other person with access to drug stock\*

**\*NOTE:** Access to drug stock includes not only physical access, but also any influence over the handling of prescription drugs (i.e. dangerous drugs) such as purchases, inventories, issuance of medical orders, etc. It does not include employees/contractors such as maintenance, janitorial, IT or other staff that may need limited supervised access to areas where prescription drugs or D.E.A. controlled substance order forms are kept.



The licensee or applicant must have procedures in place that prohibit unsupervised access to such areas by these employees (OAC 4729-9-11).

These questions **do not** apply to:

- Former employees or agents of the licensee at the time the legal & disciplinary questions are answered.
- The applicant's responsible person. The responsible person has their own set of legal & disciplinary questions on the application.

**PLEASE NOTE: The ten-year lookback period for a misdemeanor theft offense is from the date the application is signed by the applicant.**

**Q2:** How is it possible for an applicant to acknowledge that they have correctly answered the legal and disciplinary questions at the time of initial licensure – how will the applicant know the criminal history of those persons listed in A1 and the responsible person?

**A2:** The entity seeking licensure should exercise due diligence in ensuring they know the answers to these questions for the persons described in A1 and the responsible person. This also means having screening policies for owners, officers, employees or contractors who meet the criteria listed in A1 and for the responsible person.

NOTE REGARDING THE FEDERAL EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (EEOC):

The EEOC does not have the authority to prohibit employers from obtaining or using arrest or conviction records. The EEOC simply seeks to ensure that such information is not used in a discriminatory way.

In implementing policies related to obtaining appropriate employment information, be mindful that the policy should be applied equally to all applicants. The EEOC publishes the following guidance:

*In all cases, make sure that you are treating everyone equally. It's illegal to check the background of applicants and employees when that decision is based on a person's race, national origin, color, sex, religion, disability, genetic information (including family medical history), or age (40 or older). For example, asking only people of a certain race about their financial histories or criminal records is evidence of discrimination.*

The EEOC enforces Title VII, which prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Having a criminal record is not listed as a protected basis in Title VII. Therefore, whether a covered employer's reliance on a criminal record to deny employment violates Title VII depends on whether it is part of a claim of employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Title VII liability for employment discrimination is determined using two analytic frameworks: "disparate treatment" and "disparate impact."

Title VII also does not preempt federal statutes and regulations that govern eligibility for occupational licenses and registrations. These restrictions cover diverse sectors of the economy including the transportation industry, the financial industry, and import/export activities, among others.

**Q3:** If a person described in A1 (or the responsible person) has been charged/convicted/disciplined prior to initial licensure, must the entity terminate that individual's employment in order to obtain a license?

**A3:** The Board does not advise an entity on whether to terminate an individual with a criminal case/conviction or disciplinary action; that decision rests with the entity's personnel policies. However, the entity **MUST** report the underlying charge/conviction/discipline to the Board (as stated in the application) so that the Board may review the facts and circumstances related to a particular case to determine its potential connection, if any, to the license for which the entity is applying.

**PLEASE NOTE:** For a pain management clinic, section 4729.552 of the Revised Code requires all employees of the facility to submit to a criminal records check in accordance with section 4776.02 of the Revised Code and ensure that no person is employed who has previously been convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, either of the following: (1) A theft offense, described in division (K)(3) of section 2913.01 of the Revised Code, that would constitute a felony under the laws of this state, any other state, or the United States; or (2) A felony drug abuse offense, as defined in section 2925.01 of the Revised Code.

**Q4:** How can the Board expect an employer to require an employee, agent, etc. to disclose an expunged or sealed felony or misdemeanor drug offense?

**A4:** Section 2953.33(B) of the Ohio Revised Code permits inquiry into sealed convictions if the question bears a direct and substantial relationship to the position for which the person is being considered. This code section applies to applications for employment, license, or other right or privilege.

**Q5:** What does the Board consider a misdemeanor related to, or committed in, the person's professional practice (i.e. pharmacy, dental, medical, nursing, etc.)?

**Q5:** The Board considers a misdemeanor related to, or committed in, a person's professional practice to be a misdemeanor for which an Ohio licensing agency may take or has taken action against a licensee under its regulatory authority. A misdemeanor offense seemingly only related to administrative tasks has been found to be within the course of the person's professional practice.

*If you are not sure whether the Board would consider a particular offense to be a misdemeanor related to, or committed in, a person's professional practice, it is recommended that the responsible person disclose the information to the Board on the*

*application materials so that the Board may review the facts and circumstances to determine whether a direct and substantial relationship exists.*

**Q6:** What does the Board consider a misdemeanor related to, or committed in, the distribution of dangerous drugs?

**Q6:** The Board considers a misdemeanor related to, or committed in, the distribution of dangerous drugs (i.e. prescription drugs) to be a misdemeanor for which an Ohio/federal licensing agency or law enforcement agency may take action or has taken action against an individual pursuant to state or federal law.

*If you are not sure whether the Board would consider a particular offense to be a misdemeanor related to, or committed in, the distribution of dangerous drugs, it is recommended that the responsible person disclose the information to the Board on the application materials so that the Board may review the facts and circumstances to determine whether a direct and substantial relationship exists.*

**Q7:** What constitutes a crime of moral turpitude as defined in section 4776.10 of the Ohio Revised Code?

**A7:** A crime of moral turpitude as defined in section 4776.10 of the Ohio Revised Code, includes the following:

- **Sexually Oriented Offenses:** Rape, Sexual Battery, Gross Sexual Imposition, Sexual Imposition, Importuning, Voyeurism, Compelling Prostitution, Promoting Prostitution, Pandering Obscenity, Pandering Obscenity or Sexually Oriented Matter Involving a Minor, and Illegal Use of a Minor in Nudity Oriented Material.
- **The Following Offenses of Violence that are first or second degree felonies:** Aggravated Murder, Murder, Voluntary Manslaughter, Involuntary Manslaughter, Felonious Assault, Aggravated Assault, Assault, Permitting Child Abuse, Aggravated Menacing, Menacing, Menacing by Stalking, Kidnapping, Abduction, Extortion, Trafficking in persons, Rape, Sexual Battery, Gross Sexual Imposition, Aggravated Arson, Arson, Terrorism, Aggravated Robbery, Robbery, Aggravated Burglary, Inciting to Violence, Aggravated Riot, Riot, Inducing Panic, Domestic Violence, Intimidation (including of witness or attorney), Escape, Improper Discharge of Firearm, Patient abuse, Burglary (specific sections), Endangering Children (specific sections) and Felonious Sexual Penetration.

*Note: Please consult legal counsel for a complete listing of crimes of moral turpitude as defined in section 4776.10 of the Revised Code.*

**Q8:** What does the Board consider a crime (felony or misdemeanor) involving an act of moral turpitude?

**A8:** A crime involving an act of moral turpitude is a criminal act (felony or misdemeanor) that includes any of following:

(1) An act or behavior that gravely violates moral sentiment or accepted moral standards of the community and is a morally culpable quality held to be present in some criminal offenses as distinguished from others.

(2) Conduct done knowingly contrary to honesty or good morals.

(3) Intentional, knowing or reckless conduct causing bodily injury to another or intentional, knowing or reckless conduct which, by physical menace, puts another in fear of imminent serious bodily injury.

*If you are not sure whether the Board would consider a particular offense to be an act of moral turpitude, it is recommended that the responsible person disclose the information to the Board on the application materials so that the Board may review the facts and circumstances to determine whether a direct and substantial relationship exists.*