

TCI Correctional Officer Certification

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IADLEST
Tennessee Corrections Institute



TCA § 41-4-144. Employment qualifications

- After July 1, 2006, any person employed as a jail administrator, jailer, corrections officer or guard in a county jail or workhouse shall:
- At least eighteen (18) years of age;
- Citizen of the United States;
- Be a high school graduate or possess its equivalency,
- Not have been convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to any felony charge or to any violation of any federal or state laws or municipal ordinances relating to force, violence, theft, dishonesty, gambling, liquor, controlled substances or controlled substance analogues;

Employment Qualifications (cont.)

- Not have been released or discharged under any other than honorable discharge from any of the armed forces of the United States;
- Have the person's fingerprints on file with the Tennessee bureau of investigation;
- Have passed a physical examination by a licensed physician;
- Have a good moral character as determined by a thorough investigation conducted by the sheriff's office; and

Employment Qualifications (cont.)

- Have been certified by a Tennessee licensed health care provider qualified in the psychiatric or psychological field as being free from any impairment, as set forth in the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association at the time of the examination, that would, in the professional judgment of the examiner, affect the person's ability to perform an essential function of the job, with or without a reasonable accommodation.
- Requirements for minimum qualifications shall be mandatory and binding upon any municipality, county or political subdivision of this state.

Employment Qualifications (cont.)

- Any person who appoints any applicant who, to the knowledge of the appointor, fails to meet the minimum qualifications as set forth in subsection (a), and any person who signs the warrant or check for the payment of the salary of any person who, to the knowledge of the signer, fails to meet the minimum qualifications as set forth in this section, commits a Class A misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be subject to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

Employment Qualifications (cont.)

- Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to preclude an employing agency from establishing qualifications and standards for hiring and training jail or workhouse employees that exceed those set forth in this section.

Certification

- Certification required for all full and part-time correctional officers employed after July 1, 2027
- Requires compliance with pre-employment and training standards
- Shall maintain certification
- Two-year break in service

Denial of Certification

- Not meeting pre-employment requirements or granted waiver
- Been decertified by any certifying body
- Failure to complete basic
- Not completing all requirements within 12 months of employment

Decertification

- Commission of a crime
- Suspended for 30 days or longer, termination or resignation in lieu of termination
- Acquiesce false information to BOC or TCI on initial and ongoing certification
- Failure to complete in-service training

Decertification Process

- Process: Notice of suspension pending next BOC meeting
- Written appeal w/in 30 days
- No appeal/no appearance action will proceed
- TCI BOC appeal to Chancery court
- UAPA Hearing Process
- NDI entry

Questions?

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