

**TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY  
REGARDING UNREADABLE PRINTS**

Health care consumers are dependent upon professional licensing boards to conduct appropriate screening of applicants. The Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners has the responsibility protecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Tennessee and to that end has a duty to exclude individuals who pose a risk to the public health, safety and welfare. One means of predicting future behavior is to look at past behavior. Checking whether applicants for licensure have a criminal history and examining the nature of that history can provide significant information for boards to use in making licensure decisions. To that end, the Board of Medical Examiners asks all new applicants to obtain a criminal background check and have the results transmitted to the board for examination. In most cases the fingerprints are clear and easily readable. However, some individuals cannot get readable fingerprints. For applicants with unreadable prints, the Board of Medical Examiners adopts the following policy relative to unreadable fingerprints:

In all cases where applicants fingerprint cards are unreadable, the applicant shall be required to come to the state of Tennessee and submit to a FBI/TBI fingerprint scan through the State of Tennessee approved vendor or its equivalent as determined by the Board

For applicants not licensed in any other jurisdiction the Board shall require the applicant to submit to an FBI/TBI fingerprint scan through the State of Tennessee's approved vendor or its equivalent as determined by the board or its equivalent in the state the applicant is located in.

For applicants licensed in other jurisdictions the board shall require the applicant to submit to an FBI/TBI fingerprint scan through the State of Tennessee's approved vendor or its equivalent as determined by the board or its equivalent in the state the applicant is located in.

**Adopted by the Board of Medical Examiners July 11, 2007.**