

Frequently Asked Questions About How Having a Criminal Conviction Could Affect Getting a Private Detective, Private Security Contractor, Private Alarm Contractor, Locksmith, Canine Handler, or Fingerprint Vendor License

***Please note that this document does not apply to Permanent Employee Registration Card (“PERC”) applicants. PERC applicants should consult the FAQs [here](#).**

- 1. I am applying for the first-time for a license to be a Private Detective, Private Security Contractor, Private Alarm Contractor, Locksmith, Canine Handler, or Fingerprint Vendor and I have a criminal conviction in my past. Can I still get a license?**

ANSWER: Depending on the type and nature of the conviction, most likely yes if you are otherwise qualified. An applicant’s convictions, along with other factors, may be considered by the Department in its decision whether to grant a license. We encourage you to apply and fully participate in the Department’s review process. Last year, for all licensed professions, 99% of applicants with a conviction who aren’t barred by law and who accurately completed the application disclosing their conviction have obtained a license.

- 2. Which convictions are an automatic bar to obtaining a license as a Private Detective, Private Security Contractor, Private Alarm Contractor, Locksmith, Canine Handler, or Fingerprint Vendor?**

ANSWER: Any offense that requires you to register as a registered sex offender is an absolute bar to licensure as a Private Detective, Private Security Contractor, Private Alarm Contractor, Locksmith, or Fingerprint Vendor. Please refer to question 3 below for additional information.

- 3. What are examples of convictions that the Department will consider when determining whether an applicant qualifies for a Private Detective, Private Security Contractor, Private Alarm Contractor, Locksmith, Canine Handler, or Fingerprint Vendor license? (These are NOT an automatic bar to obtaining a license, but they do need to be disclosed on your application.)**

- Arson
- Burglary
- Stalking
- Battery
- Unlawful use of weapons
- First degree murder
- Drug induced homicide
- Unlawful restraint
- Aggravated unlawful restraint
- Assault
- Reckless Homicide
- Manslaughter
- Theft
- Narcotic drug possession or sale
- Second degree murder
- Vehicular hijacking
- Kidnapping
- Forcible detention

- Involuntary servitude
- Aggravated robbery
- Armed robbery
- Aggravated vehicular hijacking
- Causing a catastrophe
- Making a terrorist threat
- Hindering prosecution of terrorism
- Driving under the influence
- Vandalism
- Any offense involving bodily harm, weapons, or violence
- Attempt of any of the above offenses
- Aggravated kidnaping
- Kidnapping
- Aggravated battery
- Terrorism
- Possessing a deadly substance
- Material support for terrorism
- Armed violence
- Trespass
- Any offence based on consumer fraud or deceptive business practices
- Any offense involving cruelty to animals (only applies to canine handlers)

The Department will consider the following offenses when determining whether an applicant qualifies for a Private Detective, Private Security Contractor, Private Alarm Contractor, Locksmith, Canine Handler, or Fingerprint Vendor license, if the applicant is convicted of any of the following offenses but is NOT required to register as registered sex offender:

- Involuntary sexual servitude of a minor
- Aggravated criminal sexual assault
- Criminal sexual abuse
- Predatory criminal sexual assault of a child
- Criminal sexual assault

4. Which convictions will the Department NOT consider when determining whether an applicant qualifies for a Private Detective, Private Security Contractor, Private Alarm Contractor, Locksmith, Canine Handler, or Fingerprint Vendor license? (These convictions do need to be disclosed on your application, but they will not have a negative effect on your request for a license.)

- Cannabis possession or sale
- Traffic offenses (except driving under the influence and reckless homicide)
- Convictions that have been expunged, sealed, vacated, or reversed by the court or a juvenile conviction/disposition. These convictions do NOT have to be disclosed to the Department. Please refer to question 5 below for more information.

5. I have a juvenile conviction in my past, or an adult conviction that has since been expunged, sealed, vacated, or reversed by the court. Should I still notify the Department of this conviction?

ANSWER: No. Individuals applying for a license should not disclose to the Department any adult convictions that have been expunged, sealed, vacated, or reversed by the court or any juvenile conviction/disposition.

6. I have a conviction in my past and have submitted my application. What can I expect next?

ANSWER: The Department may contact you to request additional information or request an informal conference to discuss your past conviction.

DISCLAIMER: The above questions and answers are provided for general information only and may not be completely accurate in every circumstance, do not purport to be legal advice, and are not intended to be legally binding on the Department in a particular case. Questions involving interpretation of the law and your legal rights and obligations should be addressed to your lawyer.