

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:
NEW BACKGROUND SCREENING LAW
HB 7069 (2010), RELATING TO BACKGROUND SCREENING**

HB 7069 (2010) was signed into law by Governor Crist on May 26, 2010, and contains expanded requirements for background screening for health care practitioners who work in certain facilities, including those regulated by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)

Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapist Assistants who are employed in or seeking employment in facilities regulated by AHCA may obtain more information about the new requirements by visiting AHCA's Background Screening web page at the address below or by contacting the Background Screening Section at **(850) 412-4503**.

http://ahca.myflorida.com/MCHQ/Long_Term_Care/Background_Screening/index.shtml

EXEMPTIONS FROM DISQUALIFICATION

If AHCA notifies you that you must obtain an **Exemption from Disqualification** from the Florida Board of Occupational Therapy Practice, as a result of your background screening report, you will need to download and complete the form provided on its website at the following address:

http://ahca.myflorida.com/MCHQ/Long_Term_Care/Background_Screening/exemption.shtml

The application should then be submitted to the Occupational Therapy Practice Board office, along with all required supporting documentation, at the following address:

Florida Department of Health
Division of Medical Quality Assurance
Medical Therapies Unit/OT
4052 Bald Cypress Way BIN C-05
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3255

Upon receipt, Board staff will review the application and documentation to ensure that all required information has been received and will place consideration of the application on the next scheduled Board meeting agenda. You will receive a formal meeting notice from the Board office once the application has been agendaed.

A PERSON IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM DISQUALIFICATION UNTIL:

- For a **Felony Disqualifying Offense**, unless you have completed or been lawfully released from confinement, supervision, or sanction for the disqualifying felony in the last 3 years, you will not qualify for an exemption. All disqualifying offenses (felonies and misdemeanors) that have adjudication withheld will be handled the same as a conviction for the purposes of this exemption request.

- He/she has been lawfully released from confinement, probation or other sanction for a disqualifying misdemeanor criminal offense;
- At least 3 years after he/she has been lawfully released from confinement, probation or other sanction for a disqualifying felony criminal offense.
- Persons designated as sexual predators, sexual offenders or career offenders are not eligible for an Exemption from Disqualification.

SELF-REPORTING:

All offenses where you were adjudicated guilty, or had adjudication withheld must be reported to our Consumer Services Unit (CSU). If you have not previously reported these offense(s) to the Board we may send your file to CSU and an investigation will be opened. Your exemption application will be placed on hold until the investigation and any possible disciplinary measure is completed. If you need to report the offense, please contact CSU at: 850-245-4339 and let them know you need to report your offense.