



**Association of Child Life Professionals
Child Life Certification Commission
Operational Policy and Procedure**

SUBJECT: 5.0 Criminal Conviction Policy

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RATIONALE

The nature of child life practice allows Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLSs) to have close, private, physical and emotional contact with children and their families at times when they are highly vulnerable. This level of trust granted to CCLSs demands that practitioners be held to a high standard of behavior.

As the certifying body for child life specialists, CLCC is duty-bound to limit the risk to the health, safety, and well-being of children and their families through exposure to individuals who have been convicted of certain crimes.

POLICY

Applicants for the Child Life Professional Certification Exam or Recertification through Professional Development Units may be denied eligibility if convicted of a crime. Commission of a crime is also grounds for revocation of the CCLS credential from a current credential holder. CLCC categorizes criminal activity as follows, and decisions regarding appropriate action will be made based on the type of crime.

A. Automatic Denial

Because they may pose a significant risk to the health, safety, and well-being of children and families, individuals who have been convicted of the following types of crimes will not be considered for certification or recertification by the CLCC.

1. Crimes related to the physical and/or sexual abuse of children, including but not limited to sexual misconduct involving a child, creating and/or distributing child pornography or exploiting a child in a sexual manner, incest involving a child, and assault, abuse, or neglect of a child.

Supersedes: Child Life Code of Professional Practice

New/Approved: 06/2018

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2. Sexual misconduct where the victim's consent was not given, such as forcible rape, regardless of the victim's age.
3. Grievous violent crimes including but not limited to murder or attempted murder, manslaughter (except involuntary manslaughter), assault or battery with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault or battery, or kidnapping.

B. Discretionary Denial

In the following situations, applicants will only be considered for certification or recertification by the CLCC if the individual provides conclusive evidence that certification will not put the health, safety, and well-being of children and their families in jeopardy. Applicants will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Situations listed below are in order of severity.

1. The applicant was convicted of a crime and is currently incarcerated, on work release, on probation or on parole.
2. The applicant was convicted or released from custodial confinement (whichever is later) for crimes in the following categories less than five years ago:
 - a. Unlawful possession, distribution, or intent to unlawfully distribute controlled substances, including those defined by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act on Schedules I through V.
 - b. Serious crimes against property including but not limited to grand larceny, burglary, arson, embezzlement or insurance fraud.
 - c. Sexual misconduct not included above.
 - d. Contributing to the delinquency of a minor.
3. The applicant was convicted or released from custodial confinement (whichever is later) for crimes in the following categories more than five years ago:
 - a. Unlawful possession, distribution, or intent to unlawfully distribute controlled substances, including those defined by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act on Schedules I through V.
 - b. Serious crimes against property including but not limited to grand larceny, burglary, arson, embezzlement or insurance fraud.
 - c. Sexual misconduct not included above.
 - d. Contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

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4. Individuals convicted of any other crimes including DUI, but not including minor traffic violations may be denied certification or recertification after the following factors have been taken into account by the Ethics Committee of CLCC or ACLP staff designee.
 - The nature and seriousness of the crime.
 - If the crime related directly to children and/or the delivery of patient care.
 - The length of time that has elapsed since the crime was perpetrated.
 - If the crime was violent or abusive in nature.
 - If the crime involved a minor or a person of diminished capacity.
 - If the applicant complied fully with imposed sanctions.
 - If the applicant's actions and behavior since the crime warrant holding a position of public trust.

PROCEDURE

Application Processing and Documentation

All applicants for certification and recertification regardless of criminal history are required to submit a full application including appropriate fees. At the time of application, all applicants are required to report any misdemeanor and/or felony convictions with the exception of minor traffic violations. Failure to report any criminal background is considered falsification of the application and will result in the denial of the application or revocation if certification has been granted. If applicants are found to be ineligible for the certification exam, examination fees will be refunded minus a processing fee.

Applicants are required to submit a detailed explanation of the crime and surrounding circumstances, evidence of rehabilitation, and a certified copy of relevant court documents.

The Ethics Committee of CLCC will review any reported convictions to evaluate the applicant's ability to practice child life in a manner consistent with the health, safety, and well-being of the public.

Additional application processing time is required for applicants with a criminal background. The process may be facilitated if the applicant provides all pertinent court documents at the time of application, as well as evidence of sufficient rehabilitation such as a psychotherapist's report, comprehensive psychological evaluation, or documentation from a probation officer.

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