

## Texas Board of Nursing Information Pertinent for Nursing Program Applicants

The Texas Board of Nursing (**BON**) has been given the authority by law to protect the public from incompetent or unsafe nurses. Part of their mandated responsibilities is to **screen individuals applying for their R.N. license**. Under certain circumstances, *it is possible to graduate from a nursing school in the State of Texas and yet not be allowed to take the Registered Nurse licensure exam, NCLEX-RN.*

In accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the Texas Nursing Practice Act, *notice is to be given to students who intend to apply for registration as a registered professional nurse*. All applicants for licensure are required to answer the questions contained in this document. If the applicant answers **yes** to any of the questions, or in any way questions their eligibility to take the licensing exam upon successful graduation from nursing school, the applicant must petition the BON for a Declaratory Order. Upon receiving the Declaratory Order, the graduate nurse can take the NCLEX-RN and may receive a permit to practice as a Graduate Nurse (GN). If a Declaratory Order is not granted the graduate can not take the NCLEX-RN or receive a GN permit.

*Be advised that the BON requires fingerprint identification to screen all applicants for licensure. The fingerprints are analyzed by the FBI and there must be clearance on the background check by the BON.*

**Answer the questions below honestly, do not falsify information. If yes is answered to any of the questions, submit a Petition for Declaratory Order.**

1. { } NO { } YES For any criminal offense, including those pending appeal, have you:
  - a. Been convicted of a misdemeanor?
  - b. Been convicted of a felony?
  - c. Pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
  - d. Received deferred adjudication?
  - e. Been placed on community supervision or court ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
  - f. Been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? Court-ordered confinement?
  - g. Been granted pre-trial diversion?
  - h. Been arrested or have any pending criminal charges?
  - i. Been cited or charged with any violation of the law?
  - j. Been subject of a court martial; Article 15 violation; or military judgment/punishment/action?  
(You may exclude Class C misdemeanor traffic violations.)
2. { } NO { } YES Are you currently the target or subject of a grand jury or governmental agency investigation?
3. { } NO { } YES Has any licensing authority refused to issue you a license or ever revoked, annulled, cancelled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, refused to renew a professional license, certificate or multi-state privilege held by you now or previously, or ever fined, censured, reprimanded or otherwise disciplined you?
4. { } NO { } YES Within the past five years have you been addicted to and /or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?
5. { } NO { } YES Within the past five years have you been diagnosed with, treated or hospitalized for schizophrenia and/or psychotic disorder, bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder?

The most common mistake students make is assuming that their offense was “a long time ago and doesn’t matter.” Note that except 4 & 5, there is no time restriction in the questions above. If you believe the questions above will affect your eligibility to take NCLEX-RN, you must download information regarding a Declaratory Order from the BON website at [www.bon.state.tx.us](http://www.bon.state.tx.us). Go to section on **Applications and Forms**. *The process to obtain a Declaratory Order will be at least 3 to 6 months, possibly longer. You should begin the application process immediately.*