

## TENNESSEE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

### POLICY ON UNREADABLE FINGERPRINTS TAKEN FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

Health care consumers are dependent upon professional licensing boards to conduct appropriate screening of applicants. The Board of Dentistry has the responsibility of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the State 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 or registration 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 Dentistry 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 Dentistry adopts the following policy relative to unreadable fingerprints:

In all cases where an applicant's 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's approved vendor or its equivalent as determined by the board.

**I.** 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 in which the applicant is located.

**II.** 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 in which the applicant is located.

**Adopted by the Board of Dentistry on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2007**