

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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IN THE MATTER OF RULE-MAKING : PROPOSED ORDER OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE : DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND  
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND : PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES : ADOPTING RULES  
: (CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 18-100)

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PROPOSED ORDER

An order of the Department of Safety and Professional Services to create SPS 4.035 relating to predetermination of conviction record prior to submitting a full application for licensure.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

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ANALYSIS

**Statutes interpreted:** s. 111.335 (4) (f), Stats.

**Statutory authority:** s. 111.335 (4) (f) 6., Stats.

**Explanation of agency authority:**

The Department of Safety and Professional Services may promulgate rules defining uniform procedures for making determinations to be used by the department, the real estate appraisers board, and all examining boards and affiliated credentialing boards attached to the department or an examining board.

**Related statute or rule:** s. 452.25, Stats.

**Plain language analysis:**

This rule implements 2017 Act 278. The rule sets out uniform procedures and fees for individuals to receive a predetermination of whether a conviction record will prohibit receiving a credential.

An individual may file an application, pay a fee and submit documentation relating to the conviction record, including police report, criminal complaint, judgment of conviction, compliance with sentencing terms, personal statement and evidence of rehabilitation. The fee is equal to the credential fee, except the fee is waived if the person's family income is at or below 180% of the federal poverty line. The predetermination fee paid is credited towards the credential application fee if the individual applies for the credential within one year of the predetermination decision.

When deciding on a predetermination, the agency will consider the following:

- The severity and nature of the offense.
- The circumstances relative to the offense.
- The age of the individual at the time of the offense.
- The amount of time since the offense occurred.
- Whether the conviction is related to the activities of the profession.
- The individual's actions since the conviction and evidence of rehabilitation.

The individual will be sent notification of the decision no later than 30 days after the agency received the predetermination application. The decision is binding upon the agency if the individual applies for the credential unless there is information which is relevant but was not available at the time of the decision.

**Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal regulation:** None

**Comparison with rules in adjacent states:**

**Illinois:** Illinois does not have a predetermination process regarding criminal convictions.

**Iowa:** Iowa does not have a predetermination process regarding criminal convictions.

**Michigan:** Michigan does not have a predetermination process regarding criminal convictions.

**Minnesota:** Minnesota does not have a predetermination process regarding criminal convictions.

**Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:**

The Department reviewed the language of 2017 Act 278, and the current Real Estate Examining Board rules which were promulgated pursuant to s. 452.25, Stats.

**Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of economic impact analysis:**

This rule was posted for economic comments.

**Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis:**

The Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis is attached.

**Effect on small business:**

These proposed rules do not have an economic impact on small businesses, as defined in s. 227.114 (1), Stats. The Department's Regulatory Review Coordinator may be contacted by email at Daniel.Hereth@wisconsin.gov, or by calling (608) 267-2435.

**Agency contact person:**

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TEXT OF RULE

SECTION 1. SPS 4.035 is created to read:

**SPS 4.035 Predetermination of conviction record.** (1) An individual who does not possess a credential may apply to the authority, without submitting a full application, for a determination of whether the

individual would be disqualified from obtaining a credential based upon a conviction record by submitting all of the following:

(a) An application for predetermination.

Note: Application forms are available on the Department of Safety and Professional Services website at [dsps.wi.gov](http://dsps.wi.gov), or by request from the Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Professional Credential Processing, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708, or call (608) 266-2112.

(b) A fee in the amount equal to the credential application fee. The fee shall be waived if the family income of the individual does not exceed 180 percent of the federal poverty line established under 42 USC 9902 (2).

(c) Police report or criminal complaint.

(d) Judgment of conviction.

(e) Verification of compliance or completion with the terms of the sentencing.

(f) Personal statement describing the facts that led to each offense and any rehabilitation completed.

(2) Any fee paid under sub. (1) (b) shall be credited to the application fee if the individual applies for the credential within one year of the determination.

(3) The authority shall review the information related to the conviction record and consider all of the following factors in making a determination:

(a) The severity and nature of the offense.

(b) The circumstances relative to the offense, including mitigating circumstances or social conditions surrounding the commission of the offense and circumstances that may have a bearing on whether the individual might repeat the behavior that was the subject of the offense.

(c) The age of the individual at the time the offense was committed.

(d) The length of time that has elapsed since the offense was committed.

(e) The relationship of the offense to the credentialed practice.

(f) The individual's activities since the offense, including employment, education, participation in treatment, payment of restitution, and any other factor that may be evidence of rehabilitation.

(4) The authority shall send a written determination to the individual no later than 30 days after it receives completed application materials under sub. (1) for a determination of whether the individual would be disqualified from obtaining a credential based upon a conviction record.

(5) The determination is binding upon the authority if the individual subsequently applies for a credential, unless there is information relevant to the determination that was not available to the authority at the time of the determination.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. The rules adopted in this order shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register, pursuant to s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

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(END OF TEXT OF RULE)  
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