



Section 633.107, Florida Statutes - Exemption from disqualification from licensure or certification.

The Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST) may grant an exemption from disqualification to any person disqualified from licensure or certification by the Division of State Fire Marshal because of a criminal record or dishonorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces. An applicant is eligible to request an exemption if he or she has paid in full any fee, fine, fund, lien, civil judgment, restitution, cost of prosecution, or trust contribution imposed by the court as part of the judgment and sentence for any disqualifying offense, and at least five years have elapsed since the applicant completed or was lawfully released from confinement, supervision, or nonmonetary condition imposed by the court for the disqualifying offense, or at least five years have elapsed since the applicant was dishonorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces. To receive an exemption, the applicant must clearly and convincingly demonstrate that he or she will not pose a risk to persons or property if permitted to be licensed or certified.

The statute outlines the following factors the Department must consider when evaluating the exemption request:

- An explanation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the disqualifying offense, the time that has elapsed since the offense, and the harm caused to the victim; and
- A description of the applicant's personal history before and after the disqualifying offense. Examples of personal history information could include:
  - ❖ criminal history before and after the disqualifying offense
  - ❖ participation in court-ordered or voluntary counseling or treatment (anger management, domestic violence, substance abuse, etc.)
  - ❖ vocational/educational attainment (certificates, undergraduate degree, graduate program, etc.)
  - ❖ employment history
  - ❖ family development
  - ❖ community involvement (participation in community-based programs and activities such as planning and staging local events, playing sports, coaching youth sports, civic and religious activities, etc.)
- Any other facts or circumstances which suggest the applicant will not present a danger if permitted to be licensed or certified.

Because an applicant must clearly and convincingly demonstrate he or she is an appropriate candidate for an exemption, applicants may submit documentation supporting facts related to the items above.

**Documentation should include:** (use the list below as a check-off process when submitting your information)

- Certified copies of judgments and sentences and termination of supervision; arrest reports; victim statements; court clerk receipts; etc.
- Certificates of completion from treatment/counseling programs
- Copies of diplomas/degrees; school transcripts
- Employment verification statements from employers; performance evaluations; letters from employer, with contact information
- Marriage license; letter from spouse attesting to current relationship status
- Current letters of reference, with contact information, from managing members of community organizations, clergy, and the like, attesting to the applicant's participation
- Awards for participation or achievement in community, civic or religious activities.