



PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET

Kentucky Department of Professional Licensing

Kentucky Board of Licensed Professional
Counselors

500 Mero Street, 2NE33
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone: (502) 564-3296
Fax: (502) 564-4818

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

Jacqueline Coleman
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

DJ Wasson
SECRETARY

Brian Raley
DEPUTY SECRETARY

Kristen Lawson
COMMISSIONER

Pursuant to KRS 335.517, every application for initial licensure, and every application for reinstatement, is required to submit a national and state criminal background investigation to the Board. The criminal background investigation must be made by means of a fingerprint check by the Kentucky State Police (KSP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The results must be sent directly to the Board by the KSP and FBI for the screening of applicants. The Board cannot accept the background check from the applicant. Please note you are required to pay the fee for these background checks to the KSP and FBI directly. A Board request for an ORI number has been made to the KSP, which is required in order for the Board to receive the background check directly. When the ORI number is assigned, a link to the application for a criminal background investigation will be provided on the website, along with instructions. Please check back for an update containing the application and instruction link.

**335.517 National and state criminal background investigation requirement.
(Effective July 15, 2026)**

- (1) The board shall require a national and state criminal background investigation for every:
 - (a) Applicant seeking an initial license issued by the board permitting the applicant to engage in a profession authorized by the board;
 - (b) Applicant seeking to reinstate a license; and
 - (c) Credential holder licensed to engage in a profession authorized by the board who applies for authorization to engage in the practice of professional counseling outside this Commonwealth in accordance with the counseling compact.
- (2) The criminal background investigation under subsection (1) of this section shall be by means of a fingerprint check by the Department of Kentucky State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation pursuant to the following requirements:
 - (a) The board shall require each applicant described in subsection (1) of this section to provide a complete and legible set of fingerprints to the Department of Kentucky State Police for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal background check after a state criminal background check is conducted;
 - (b) The results of the national and state criminal background check shall be sent to the board for the screening of applicants;
 - (c) The results of a national and state criminal background check shall not be distributed or otherwise released by the board, except that the board:
 1. Shall provide any applicant or credential holder the results of his or her national and state criminal background check upon request; and
 2. May introduce the results under seal as evidence in a legal proceeding that involves a challenge to any disciplinary action taken by the board based in whole or in part on information contained in the results; and
 - (d) Any fee charged by the Department of Kentucky State Police or for the Federal Bureau of Investigation background check shall be an amount no greater than the actual cost of processing the request and conducting the background check.
- (3) The board shall review the criminal background check results for every person described in subsection (1)(c) of this section and determine whether the person is eligible to apply for the compact privilege to practice outside this Commonwealth.
- (4) The board may require a criminal background check for any person licensed to engage in a profession authorized by the board who is the subject of a complaint alleging prohibited conduct as described in KRS 335.540.
- (5) Unless otherwise required by law, the board shall not require a criminal background check solely for the purpose of renewing a license.
- (6) The board shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to implement this section.

Effective: July 15, 2026

History: Created 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 6, sec. 5, effective July 15, 2026.