Minimum Standards for Certification as a Deputy Sheriff or Detention Officer

Every Justice Officer employed or certified in North Carolina must:

- be a citizen of the United States;
- be at least 21 years of age;
- be a high school graduate, or the equivalent (GED);
- have been fingerprinted by the employing agency;
- have had a medical examination by a licensed physician;
- have produced a negative result on a drug screen
- make full disclosure of criminal charges and Domestic Violence Orders, bit upon application and while holding certification;
- be of good moral character;
- have a thorough background investigation conducted by the employing agency, to include a personal interview prior to employment;
- not have a prohibitive criminal history record.

Prohibitive Criminal Histories

The Commission shall revoke or deny the certification of a justice officer when it finds that the applicant/officer has committed or been convicted of a felony or crime for which the authorized punishment could have been imprisonment for more than two years. (Conviction means the entry of a plea of guilty, a verdict or finding of guilt, and/or a plea of no contest, nolo contendere or the equivalent. Commission means a finding by the Commission or an administrative body pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes that person performed the acts necessary to satisfy the elements of a specified criminal offense.)

The Commission may revoke, suspend, or deny the certification of an applicant/officer when the Commission finds that the applicant/officer has committed or been convicted of certain Class A and B misdemeanors, including:

- A Class B misdemeanor that occurred after the date of initial certification.
- A Class B misdemeanor dated within the 5-year period of time prior to the date of appointment.
- Four or more Class B misdemeanors regardless of the date of commission or conviction.
- Four or more Class A misdemeanors, each of which occurred after initial certification.
- Four or more Class A misdemeanors, except the applicant may be certified if the last conviction or commission occurred more than 2 years prior to the date of appointment.
- A combination of 4 or more Class A or Class B misdemeanors regardless of the date of commission or conviction.