

**1002.****MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR EMPLOYMENT OR APPOINTMENT OR CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of A.C.A. 12-9-106(e), no individual shall serve, be employed or otherwise function as a law enforcement officer in this State unless the person has satisfactorily completed a program of law enforcement training at a Commission-approved school, except that an individual may serve, be employed or otherwise function as a law enforcement officer for a term of nine (9) months from his initial employment or appointment date as a law enforcement officer. (See Regulation 1008 for exceptions.)
  - (a) Upon the finding of extraordinary circumstances, the Commission, by majority vote, may extend this initial nine (9) month period.
  - (b) All requests for extensions must be submitted and received by the Commission prior to the end of the nine (9) month period.
- (2) Verification of minimum employment standards must be maintained by the employing department.
- (3) Every officer employed by a law enforcement agency shall:
  - (a) Be a citizen of the United States. (See Specification S-1)
  - (b) Be at least 21 years of age. (See Specification S-1)
  - (c) Be fingerprinted and a search initiated of state and national fingerprint files to disclose any criminal record. Procedure is prescribed in Specification S-2, Fingerprint Record Check.
  - (d) Be free of a felony record. A felony record shall mean having entered a plea of guilty, been found guilty, or otherwise having been convicted of an offense, the punishment for which could have been imprisonment in a federal penitentiary or a state penitentiary. The fact that an individual has received a pardon, or their record has been expunged shall not release the individual from having a felony record for the purposes of this regulation. (See Specification S-2).
  - (e) Be of good character as determined by a thorough background investigation as prescribed in Specification S-3, The Background Investigation.
  - (f) Be a high school graduate or have passed the General Education Development (GED) Test indicating high school graduation level.

(See Specification S-4) Home school diplomas will not substitute for the above unless approved by the Commission.

- (g) Be examined by a licensed physician and meet the physical requirements prescribed in Specification S-5, Physical Examination.
  - (h) Be interviewed personally prior to employment by the department head or his representative, or representatives to determine such things as the applicant's motivation, appearance, demeanor, attitude and ability to communicate. Commission Form F-11, Qualifications Appraisal Guide, or other appropriate form may be used to record the interview. (See Specification S-6)
  - (i) Be examined by an individual licensed to practice psychiatry or psychology and qualified to perform such evaluations in the State of Arkansas, who after examination finds the officer to be competent and recommends the agency hire the individual. (See Specification S-7)
  - (j) Possess a valid driver's license.
  - (k) Successfully complete a CLEST firearms qualification and review departmental policies, specifically policies covering the use of force, criminal law, and emergency vehicle operations. (No officer may carry a firearm in the course of employment or in the performance of official duties until this requirement is met and documented on the Initial Employment Report (F-1) submitted to the Office of Law Enforcement Standards.
  - (l) For continued employment, must successfully complete a minimum of sixteen (16 hours of CLEST certified training annually, to include firearms qualification and racial profiling.
  - (m) Be free of a misdemeanor domestic violence conviction, in accordance with 18 USC section 922,
- (4) It is emphasized that these are minimum standards for employment or appointment. Higher standards are recommended whenever the availability of qualified applicants meets the demand.
- (5) The minimum standards for employment or appointment must be complied with as contained herein before employment. The decision to employ an applicant should depend upon the results and recommendations received by the investigators and examiners, except, for items (3)(g) and (3)(i). In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a determination to hire or not hire individuals should be made prior to the examinations required by (3)(g) and (3)(i). An offer of

employment, if any, is to then be made contingent upon the successful completion of (3)(g) and (3)(i).

- (6) Law enforcement officers who have complied with the minimum standards for employment or appointment who separate from their employment and are reemployed by a law enforcement agency within six (6) months following their separation date, may transfer the required documentation evidencing compliance with the standards to the files of the new agency. The only pre-employment requirement that the new employer will be required to complete is a new background investigation and oral interview. The employing agency may require the officer to meet any or all pre-employment requirements, again, if they so desire.
- (7) Any individual who fails the required training course, as set out herein, or is expelled from the required training course, will not be eligible to serve as a law enforcement officer for twenty-four (24) months following the date of failure or expulsion from the training course.
- (8) Any individual who fails to meet the physical or mental minimum standards of this Regulation shall be individually reviewed to determine if said person can perform the essential functions of the duties of a law enforcement officer, with or without reasonable accommodations. The employing or appointing agency shall first determine if the individual can perform the essential functions of the duties of a law enforcement officer. If the agency believes that individual can perform the essential functions of the duties of a law enforcement officer, with or without reasonable accommodations, the employing or appointing agency shall request the Commission to determine if said person can perform the essential functions of the duties of a law enforcement officer. If the Commission determines, by a majority vote, that the individual can perform the essential functions of a law enforcement officer, with or without reasonable accommodations, and the employing or appointing agency and/or the individual agrees to the reasonable accommodations, then the Commission shall waive the minimum standard in question.
- (9) The Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training (CLEST) administers the program "Veterans to Law Enforcement," which allows qualified military veterans interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement, to attend the police academy.
  - (a) To be eligible to apply for the program, applicants must meet the following requirements:
    - (i) Shall have served at least six (6) months active duty in the armed services within ten (10) years prior to application.
    - (ii) Meet minimum standards as required of an Arkansas law enforcement officer as specified in CLEST Regulation 1002.

- (iii) Pay the non-refundable cost of the training prior to attending the basic training course.
    - (iv) The Director of CLEST will be the final approving authority for an applicant's acceptance into the program.
  - (b) Veterans in the Veterans to Law Enforcement program that fail any portion of the basic police training course are ineligible to attend another course for a 24 month period as specified in CLEST Regulation 1005 and are no longer eligible to apply for the Veterans to Law Enforcement program.
  - (c) Veterans in the Veterans to law Enforcement program that successfully complete the basic police training course must begin employment with a law enforcement agency as a full-time or part-time I officer within three (3) years of the date of the completion of the basic training course for the training to remain valid.
- (10) A law enforcement officer shall have no more than one CLEST law enforcement classification within a law enforcement agency.