

## Fingerprinting for Licensees

Effective July 1, 2011

The Board proposed regulations that will require any dentist licensed before 1984, any Registered Dental Assistant licensed before 1999, and any licensee for whom an electronic submission of fingerprints does not exist, to be fingerprinted before his or her license is renewed. These regulations were approved the first quarter of 2011. Once approved, the Dental Board began notifying all affected licensees. Those licensees will be responsible for submitting Live Scan fingerprints to the Dental Board before their next license renewal, or the license will be placed on an inactive status until fingerprints are submitted to the Board. Since 1984, all dentists applying for a license through the California Dental Board have been fingerprinted. This was not a requirement for dentists licensed before 1984, and for Registered Dental Assistants licensed before 1999. Furthermore, not all licensees have submitted their fingerprints to the Board electronically. The process for submitting fingerprints electronically is known as "Live Scan." Recently, several articles in the Los Angeles Times reported on nurses who have a criminal background or are incarcerated and continue to hold a valid California license. These reports have made the Dental Board aware that there may be dental licensees who have committed criminal acts that have not come to the Board's attention because the Board did not require fingerprinting of dentists before 1984 and before 1999 for Registered Dental Assistants. The Board feels that this may place consumers or other licensees who employ or work with these individuals at risk.

The Live Scan process is simple, and can easily be completed at numerous locations throughout the state. Fees vary by location, but a licensee can expect to pay \$51 plus a rolling fee between \$10 and \$30. Live Scan is the authorized service provider for electronic fingerprinting. Some locations offer mobile services. Check this site for more information, <http://ag.ca.gov/fingerprints/publications/contact.php>. Licensees must use the appropriate form. Forms can be downloaded from the DHHC and DBC web sites. If you have any questions, please contact [Teresa Pichay](#) at CDA.

### Per the Dental Board:

#### **Fingerprint and Disclosure Requirements for Renewal of License.**

(a) As a condition of renewal of a license, a licensee who was initially licensed prior to January 1, 1999, or for whom an electronic record of the submission of fingerprints does not exist, shall furnish to the Department of Justice a full set of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal history record check and to undergo a state and federal level criminal offender record information search conducted through the Department of Justice.

(1) The licensee shall pay any costs for furnishing the fingerprints and conducting the searches.

(2) As a condition of renewal, a licensee shall certify whether his or her fingerprints have been furnished to the Department of Justice in compliance with this section.

(3) This requirement is waived if the licensee is renewed in an inactive status or is actively serving in the military outside the country.

(4) A licensee shall retain, for at least three years from the renewal date, either a receipt showing the electronic transmission of his or her fingerprints to the Department of Justice or a receipt evidencing that the licensee's fingerprints were taken.