

MD LICENSURE IN FLORIDA

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PROCESS: FULL M.D. LICENSE

- Florida does not have an expedited process for M.D. applicants currently licensed in another state (endorsement avenue) - they must meet similar requirements as those for an M.D. applicant who has recently passed the USMLE and completed post graduate education (exam avenue). The Legislature requires a thorough review of all of the 4,000 applications received each year by the Board office. For each application, the following is required:
 - FBI fingerprint background check. This takes 6-8 weeks, but it can take longer if the print is not accepted by the FBI and a repeat is ordered.
 - Verification of core credentials:
 - age.
 - premedical education.
 - medical education.
 - ECFMG certification.
 - postgraduate training.
 - examination.
 - medical licenses in other states.
 - Typical delays:
 - missing supporting documentation.
 - date discrepancies.
 - application responses requiring further explanation and verification.
 - for some, a personal appearance before the Board's Credentials Committee to explain any issues raised in the application process.
 - background checks with "hits."
- The license is issued within two weeks from the receipt of the last document needed to complete the application. The Board ratifies the applicant at the next scheduled meeting. Board office accepts faxes, e-mails and all applicants are provided with phone numbers to speak with a reviewer.

PROCESS STATISTICS

- The Board office processes applications on 11 different M.D. licensure avenues/programs annually. The two largest avenues:
 - Full Unrestricted License 3,000 applications per year
 - Residents in training 1,100 application per year
- 113 days is the average processing time from the submission of the application to the date the unrestricted license is issued.
 - This includes a 6 to 8 week period to complete FBI fingerprint check.
 - This is based on 562 licenses issued from June 14 - August 2, 2007 to applicants who did not have issues requiring appearance before the Credentials Committee and did not require a 2nd FBI fingerprint background check.
- Why do some applications take less time than others?

The single biggest delay: applicants who delayed responding to Board office requests for additional information.
- What can prospective applicants do to quicken the application process?

Go to www.flhealthsource.com. Select *Board of Medicine* from pull down menu to review a guide on top 10 ways to avoid problems in the application process.

A SAMPLE OF OUR RECENT PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

- Winter, 2006: The Board approved streamlined application form eliminating unnecessary steps in the process and reducing the number of personal appearances before the Credentials Committee.
- Spring, 2007: The Department upgraded 4 MD licensure staff positions/pay levels to reduce turnover.
- Summer 2007: The Board approved time-saving measure by allowing staff to issue a license with Board ratification at next meeting. (saves an average of 2 - 4 weeks).
- Summer 2007: The office licensure unit reorganized following employee and management study groups.
- Fall, 2007: The Board will have access to high speed special scanners to submit FBI finger print checks digitally, at lower cost, with results returned within days not weeks!