

**DISCLOSURE OF CONVICTIONS FOR CERTIFICATION IN SOUTH DAKOTA**

Teacher education programs are required to inform candidates of the laws and rules pertaining to denial of a certificate in South Dakota and other states. In South Dakota, there are no comparable laws or rules for denial of admission to teacher education programs or admission to student teaching; however, candidates are advised to disclose information related to possible denial of a certificate at those admissions stages.

SDCL 13-42-10 provides for refusal of a certificate by the Secretary of the Department of Education and Cultural Affairs for conviction of crimes involving moral turpitude including traffic in either controlled substances or marijuana, or both. Moral turpitude is defined as, "an act done contrary to justice, honesty, principle, or good morals, as well as an act of baseness, vileness, or depravity in the private and social duties which a person owes to his fellow man or to society in general" [SDCL 22-1-2 (25)].

*Dakota State University recommends the disclosure of any conviction of crimes, either felony or misdemeanor (except for minor traffic violations) including convictions involving drugs and alcohol.*

A "yes" response to the question below is not a denial of admission or an automatic refusal of a certificate. Candidates are generally advised to continue in teacher education programs after voluntary disclosures and/or to seek advice from their own legal counsel. DSU does not have the authority to issue certificates, and a decision about the issuance of a certificate by the Secretary of Education cannot be made until candidates have finished programs and have been recommended for certification. The Secretary will investigate and review each application before making a decision to deny a certificate.

**Have you ever been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude that may prevent issuance of a certificate by the Secretary of the Department of Education and Cultural Affairs? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

**Check one:** \_\_\_ this is an additional disclosure(s) \_\_\_ this is reaffirming previous disclosure(s).  
Check here if supporting information/court record for above disclosure has already been submitted. \_\_\_

If you have responded "Yes" to the question above, please provide the additional information below. For multiple offenses, you may provide this information on a separate sheet with your signature and date.

Crime convicted of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Level of offense (check one) \_\_\_ Felony \_\_\_ Misdemeanor

Date of offense: \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of offense: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of offense: \_\_\_\_\_  
(include city, county and state)

Details of the incident: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Court documents** supporting the above information must be provided when application for certification is made and may be requested by the College of Education prior to that time.

**The Applicant Conduct Review Statement**, which requires disclosure of arrests, indictments, charges, etc. in addition to convictions and which must be completed at application for certification, is provided for informational purposes only at this time.