

SAMPLE LETTER: PRE-ADVERSE ACTION NOTICE

(MUST BE ON YOUR COMPANY/ORGANIZATION LETTERHEAD)

<Date>

<Applicant/Employee Name/Volunteer Name>

<Address>

<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

Dear <Applicant/Employee/Volunteer Name>

You recently applied for a <...position/volunteer position> at <company/organization name>. Part of the application process included authorizing a background check to be completed by a consumer reporting agency.

The company is considering <...not to select you for employment/a promotion/a volunteer position> based on information in whole or in part contained in the consumer report you authorized us to obtain. However, no decision has yet been made.

Enclosed with this letter please find a) a copy of the report we obtained from the consumer reporting agency and b) a Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

If you wish to explain any items that appear in the report or would like to schedule an individualized assessment, please contact <name of individual/department and phone number within your business/organization that the applicant can contact> immediately. The assessment provides an opportunity for you to demonstrate that the information identified in your Consumer Report may not relate to you, may be inaccurate, or may not relate to the position you are seeking.

You also have the right to dispute the accuracy of the information contained in the report by contacting the consumer reporting agency directly:

FactFinders Investigations, LLC

P.O. Box 910193

St. George, UT 84791-0193

Telephone: 801-441-6100

www.factfindersLLC.com

info@factfindersLLC.com

If we do not hear from you within <X number of business days (recommended 10 day window)>, we will take action based on the information we have available.

Sincerely,

<Company Representative Name>

<Title>

Enclosures:

- Copy of your background check report
- Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act
- State law notices applicable (NJ, WA, MA, NY)

Following Notices should be included in the Preliminary Adverse Action Letter if subject of background check resides in the states below:

New Jersey

**A SUMMARY OF YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE
NEW JERSEY FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT**

The state of New Jersey Fair Credit Reporting Act (NJFCRA) is designed to promote accuracy, fairness, consumer confidentiality and the proper use of credit data by each consumer reporting agency (“CRA”) in accordance with the requirements of the NJFCRA.

The NJFCRA is modeled after the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act. You have received a Summary of Your Rights Under the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act. The two Acts are almost identical, as are your rights under them. You can find the complete text of the NJFCRA at the Department of Consumer Affairs. You may seek damages for violations of the NJFCRA. If a CRA, a user or (in some cases) a provider of CRA data violates the NJFCRA, you may have a legal cause of action.

For questions or concerns regarding the NJFCRA please contact:

DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Department of Law and Public Safety

124 Halsey Street

Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: 800-242-5846

973-504-6200

Washington State
A SUMMARY OF YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE
WASHINGTON FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT

The Washington Fair Credit Reporting Act, located at Chapter 19.182 RCW, substantially parallels the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act and the rights and remedies set forth in the Federal Trade Commission's Summary of Rights, except that, effective July 22, 2007, the Washington State law imposes greater limitations on the reasons for which an employer may obtain a consumer report. Beginning July 22, 2007, an employer may not obtain a consumer report that indicates the consumer's credit worthiness, credit standing, or credit capacity, unless (1) the information is substantially job related and the employer's reasons for using the information are disclosed in writing, or (2) the information is required by law.

COMPLAINTS

ANY COMPLAINTS BY CONSUMERS UNDER STATE LAW
MAY BE DIRECTED TO:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE IN WASHINGTON
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

For Information Call: The Consumer Resource Center

Statewide Toll-Free Number:

800-551-4636

Statewide Toll-Free TDD

800-276-9883

Complaints May Be Made Via U.S. Mail or E-Mail

Complaints: <http://ww.atg.wa.gov/FileAComplaint.aspx>

(Include your U.S. Mail address with any complaint.)

Website & Forms: <http://www.atg.wa.gov/>

Massachusetts

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PROCESS IN CORRECTING A CRIMINAL RECORD

1. If you have undergone a background check by an agency that has received a criminal record from the DCJIS, you may ask the agency to provide you with a copy of the criminal record. You may also request a copy of your adult criminal record from the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services, 200 Arlington Street, Suite 2200, Chelsea, MA 02150 or by calling (617)660-4640 or go to http://www.mass.gov/Eeops/docs/cjis/cori_request_personal.pdf
2. The DCJIS charges \$25.00 fee to provide an individual with a copy of his/her criminal record. You may complete an affidavit of indigency and request that the DCJIS waive the fee.
3. Upon receipt, review the record. If you need assistance in interpreting the entries or dispositions, please review the disposition code and “how to read a criminal record” on the DCJIS website www.mass.gov/cjis/cori/cori_bop.html
4. The DCJIS does not offer “walk-in” service but you may call our Legal Division at (617)660-4760 for assistance or the CARI Unit of the Office of the Commissioner of Probation at (617)727-5300.
5. If you believe that a case is opened on your record that should be marked closed, you may contact the Office of the Commissioner of Probation Department at the court where the charges were brought and request that the case(s) be updated.
6. If you believe that a disposition is incorrect, contact the Chief Probation Officer at the court where the charges were brought or the CARI Unit at the Office of the Commissioner of Probation and report that the court incorrectly entered a disposition on your criminal record.
7. If you believe that someone has stolen or improperly used your identity and were arraigned on criminal charges under your name, you may contact the Office of the Commissioner of Probation CARI Unit or the Chief Probation Officer in the court where the charges were brought. For a listing of courthouses and telephone numbers please see www.mass.gov/cjis/cori/cori_codes_court.html
8. In some situations of identity theft, you may need to contact the DCJIS to arrange to have fingerprints analysis conducted.
9. If there is a warrant currently outstanding against you, you need to appear at the court and ask that the warrant be recalled. You cannot do this over the telephone.
10. If you believe that an employer, volunteer agency, housing agency or municipality has been provided with a criminal record that does not pertain to you, the agency should contact the CORI Unit for assistance at (617)660-4640

NEW YORK CORRECTION LAW

ARTICLE 23-A

LICENSURE AND EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED OF ONE OR MORE CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Section 750. Definitions.

751. Applicability.

752. Unfair discrimination against persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses prohibited.

753. Factors to be considered concerning a previous criminal conviction; presumption.

754. Written statement upon denial of license or employment.

755. Enforcement.

§750. Definitions. For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Public agency" means the state or any local subdivision thereof, or any state or local department, agency, board or commission.

(2) "Private employer" means any person, company, corporation, labor organization or association which employs ten or more persons.

(3) "Direct relationship" means that the nature of criminal conduct for which the person was convicted has a direct bearing on his fitness or ability to perform one or more of the duties or responsibilities necessarily related to the license, opportunity, or job in question.

(4) "License" means any certificate, license, permit or grant of permission required by the laws of this state, its political subdivisions or instrumentalities as a condition for the lawful practice of any occupation, employment, trade, vocation, business, or profession. Provided, however, that "license" shall not, for the purposes of this article, include any license or permit to own, possess, carry, or fire any explosive, pistol, handgun, rifle, shotgun, or other firearm.

(5) "Employment" means any occupation, vocation or employment, or any form of vocational or educational training. Provided, however, that "employment" shall not, for the purposes of this article, include membership in any law enforcement agency.

§751. Applicability. The provisions of this article shall apply to any application by any person for a license or employment at any public or private employer, who has previously been convicted of one or more criminal offenses in this state or in any other jurisdiction, and to any license or employment held by any person whose conviction of one or more criminal offenses in this state or in any other jurisdiction preceded such employment or granting of a license, except where a mandatory forfeiture, disability or bar to employment is imposed by law, and has not been removed by an executive pardon, certificate of relief from disabilities or certificate of good conduct. Nothing in this article shall be construed to affect any right an employer may have with respect to an intentional misrepresentation in connection with an application for employment made by a prospective employee or previously made by a current employee.

§752. Unfair discrimination against persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses prohibited.

No application for any license or employment, and no employment or license held by an individual, to which the provisions of this article are applicable, shall be denied or acted upon adversely by reason of the individual's having been previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses, or by reason of a finding of lack of "good moral character" when such finding is based upon the fact that the individual has previously been convicted of one or more criminal offenses, unless:

- (1) There is a direct relationship between one or more of the previous criminal offenses and the specific license or employment sought or held by the individual; or
- (2) the issuance or continuation of the license or the granting or continuation of the employment would involve an unreasonable risk to property or to the safety or welfare of specific individuals or the general public.

§753. Factors to be considered concerning a previous criminal conviction; presumption.

1. In making a determination pursuant to section seven hundred fifty-two of this chapter, the public agency or private employer shall consider the following factors:

- (a) The public policy of this state, as expressed in this act, to encourage the licensure and employment of persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses.
- (b) The specific duties and responsibilities necessarily related to the license or employment sought or held by the person.
- (c) The bearing, if any, the criminal offense or offenses for which the person was previously convicted will have on his fitness or ability to perform one or more such duties or responsibilities.
- (d) The time which has elapsed since the occurrence of the criminal offense or offenses.
- (e) The age of the person at the time of occurrence of the criminal offense or offenses.
- (f) The seriousness of the offense or offenses.
- (g) Any information produced by the person, or produced on his behalf, in regard to his rehabilitation and good conduct.
- (h) The legitimate interest of the public agency or private employer in protecting property, and the safety and welfare of specific individuals or the general public.

2. In making a determination pursuant to section seven hundred fifty-two of this chapter, the public agency or private employer shall also give consideration to a certificate of relief from disabilities or a certificate of good conduct issued to the applicant, which certificate shall create a presumption of rehabilitation in regard to the offense or offenses specified therein.

§754. Written statement upon denial of license or employment. At the request of any person previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses who has been denied a license or employment, a public agency or private employer shall provide, within thirty days of a request, a written statement setting forth the reasons for such denial.

§755. Enforcement. 1. In relation to actions by public agencies, the

provisions of this article shall be enforceable by a proceeding brought pursuant to article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules.

2. In relation to actions by private employers, the provisions of this article shall be enforceable by the division of human rights pursuant to the powers and procedures set forth in article fifteen of the executive law, and, concurrently, by the New York city commission on human rights.