



## **Maryland Certificate of Rehabilitation Fact Sheet**

### **What is a Certificate of Rehabilitation?**

- In 2016 Maryland passed the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) which stipulated that eligible individuals can earn a Certificate of Rehabilitation. If granted, eligible individuals who have successfully completed supervision cannot be denied certain professional certifications and licensing solely on the basis of their criminal conviction.

### **Why are these certificates valuable?**

- Occupational licensing and employment laws regulate many professions including barbers/cosmetologists, healthcare professionals, engineers, embalmers, waste management workers, real estate professionals, accountants, contractors, security guards, and many others. The statutory requirements for obtaining occupational licenses vary among the states and according to the type of license. Generally, however, occupational licensing statutes have two types of requirements: competency and character.
- Although individuals with criminal records may be able to fulfill the competency requirement through training, experience, or education, the character component creates a more difficult obstacle. Under many licensing laws, a felony conviction is an automatic disqualification. No matter how old their convictions or how qualified they are for the job or license, these individuals are blocked from entering those occupations.
- Individuals with criminal records who have been issued a certificate and have completed relevant job training and education programs may be eligible to obtain an occupational license.

### **Who is eligible for a Certificate of Rehabilitation?**

- Individuals who meet the following requirements are eligible to receive a Certificate of Rehabilitation ***once*** in a lifetime:
  - 1) No convictions for a crime of violence or sexual offense for which registration is required.
  - 2) Was supervised under the Division of Parole and Probation under the conditions of Parole, Probation or Mandatory release.
  - 3) Has completed ***all*** special and general conditions of supervision, including payment of all required restitution, fines, costs, fees, and other payment obligations.

### **Please be advised that the Certificate of Rehabilitation DOES NOT:**

- Seal or erase the record of conviction.
- Prevent this offense from being considered as a prior conviction if you are convicted of a new offense.
- Allow you to answer employment applications that you have no record of conviction.
- Restore ability to own a firearm.

### **How do I apply?**

- The application can be downloaded from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services website, ([WWW.DPSCS.Maryland.gov](http://WWW.DPSCS.Maryland.gov)) or obtained from any Maryland Division of Parole and Probation office. There is no fee, however you must agree to a criminal background investigation to determine your eligibility for a Certificate of Rehabilitation.