

Criminal convictions

Applicants for registration are required to declare the presence of any criminal convictions in any country. It is expected that an applicant will display honesty and candour in the disclosure of convictions in their application. Applicants are also required to provide evidence regarding their conviction status by providing overseas police certificates and/or consent for an Aotearoa New Zealand convictions check.

The presence of a conviction does not mean that an applicant may not be registered however the applicant must satisfy the Board that, having regard to all the circumstances, including the time that has elapsed since the conviction, the offence does not reflect adversely on his or her fitness to practice.

If an applicant or a practitioner has one or more convictions, they are required to provide the OTBNZ with all of the following:

- A full explanation and reflection regarding the nature of the conviction/s, and the circumstances which gave rise to it/them. The explanation must provide as much information as possible so that the OTBNZ may consider suitability for registration having regard to all the circumstances
- A certified or original copy of the 'Summary of Facts' submitted to the court by the Police, in relation to the charge(s) which resulted in the conviction/s
- 2 (two) Character references. Referees must be a person of good standing in the community have known the applicant for more than 2 years, are not a relative and are over 18 years old. The referee must show that they are fully informed of the conviction/s for which the reference is being provided and why they believe the conviction/s do not reflect adversely on the applicant's fitness to practise in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Any further information as requested by the OTBNZ

The OTBNZ will consider all the circumstances around the conviction and determine if the offence reflects adversely on the applicant's fitness to practice as an occupational therapist, or the reputational standing of the profession.

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