



New Alabama Immigration Law as it Effects Licensure

With the numerous news stories covering Alabama's new Immigration Law, you are probably already well aware of some of the controversy, political aspects, and may even have strong opinions one way or the other on this subject. We now know that this law has a direct impact on licensure in our State. Specifically, professional licensure has been interpreted as a benefit and "therefore" citizenship is required in order to hold professional licensure in Alabama. After much debate (between State departments) regarding the exact implementation process for enforcing this new statute, The ABCR has now been given a clear directive. Before we can issue an initial license or a renewal license this year, we must first obtain documentation proving that the applicant is a United States Citizen. Therefore, the ABCR has adopted a two- part compliance plan: 1. The application for licensure has been modified to require proof of citizenship before an initial license is ever issued; and 2. For the 2013 Renewal year, all licensees must submit proof of citizenship before the renewal certificate can be issued. This year's renewal will be the only year this additional renewal documentation will be required (due to now requiring the information prior to future license issuance).

Although, we have always required Social Security numbers and place of birth on initial applications, we have further been advised that we must request additional specific documents to prove citizenship. The documents that are acceptable to prove citizenship are listed on page two (2) of this issue of *ABCR Newsline*.

We sincerely understand the inconvenience this will place on our licensees for this year's renewal and in addition, this has become an administrative nightmare; however, we must adhere to the laws of the State of Alabama. We will be working diligently to process this additional paperwork as efficiently as possible and we thank you in advance for your cooperation.

In order to comply with the new Alabama Immigration Law, all licensees must prove citizenship before their renewal can be processed. The ABCR has been advised that any one of the following items will be sufficient to prove citizenship. Therefore, one of the following documents must be mailed to the ABCR office for the 2013 renewal only. Once this is on file, you will not have to resubmit for future renewals.

- A driver's license or non-driver's identification card issued by the Alabama Department of Public Safety or the equivalent agency of another state within the United States, provided that the governmental agency of another state within the United States requires proof of lawful presence in the United States as a condition of issuance of the driver's license or non-driver's identification card.
- A birth certificate in the United States or one of its territories.
- Pertinent pages of a United States valid or expired passport identifying the person and the person's passport number, or the person's United States passport.
- United States naturalization documents or the number of the certificate of naturalization.
- Other documents or methods of proof of United States citizenship issued by the federal government pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, as amended.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs card number, tribal treaty card number, or tribal enrollment number.
- A consular report of birth abroad of a citizen of the United States of America.
- A certificate of citizenship issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- A certification of report of birth issued by the United States Department of State.
- An American Indian card, with KIC classification, issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security.
- Final adoption decree showing the person's name and United States birthplace.
- An official United States military record of service showing the applicant's place of birth in the United States.

