

# United Centers for Spiritual Living

## Policy on Prior Criminal Convictions

*Ratified by the CORE Council of the United Centers for Spiritual Living 2009*

### **I. Purpose**

This policy addresses the issue of criminal convictions occurring prior to licensing as a Practitioner or Minister with United Centers for Spiritual Living.

### **II. Background**

Due to the nature of spiritual work and the rigors of ministerial obligations and practitioner confidentiality, the United Centers for Spiritual Living maintains high standards for the admission of candidates into our ecclesiastical programs and requires full disclosure of prior convictions. Hence, the following standards are set in place.

### **III. Standards**

These standards are placed into effect to address convictions for felonies and/or crimes involving emotional or physical violence committed by one person against another person, including but not limited to the following: assault and battery, kidnapping, murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forceful rape, robbery, aggravated assault, fraud, grand larceny, embezzlement, and spousal/elder/child/sexual abuse.

All Practitioner II training candidates, Holmes Institute ministerial applicants, and all applicants for Ministerial or Practitioner licensing are required to disclose in writing all prior convictions for felonies and/or violent crimes and the following applies:

1. Any violent felony crime (murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forceful rape, robbery, aggravated assault, etc.) disqualifies the candidate from eligibility for licensing.
2. Any hate-crimes or crimes-of-abuse (spousal, elder, child, sexual, etc.) disqualifies the candidate from eligibility for licensing.
3. Any other felony crimes (fraud, grand larceny, embezzlement, narcotics violations, etc.) must be disclosed at time of application and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
4. Any violent misdemeanor must be disclosed at time of application and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

5. If any felony or violent misdemeanor is not disclosed at the time of application, and is discovered at any time before or after licensing, it will disqualify the candidate from eligibility for licensing, and any licenses already issued will be revoked.
6. Upon entrance to Practitioner II Training, applicants are subject at their own expense to a national criminal history basic check, including any required court verifications, a sexual offender record check, Social Security Verification, and a credit report.
7. Upon application to Holmes Institute, potential ministerial students are subject at their own expense to a full background investigation and credit check. Further, upon graduation from Holmes Institute and prior to ministerial licensing, graduates are subject at their own expense to a national criminal history basic check, including any required court verifications, a sexual offender record check, Social Security verification, and a credit report.
8. Any other crimes discovered in the background checks are subject to review by the Professional Standards and Ethics Team.
9. Requests for exceptions to these standards and policies may be directed to the Professional Standards and Ethics Team for consideration prior to application, and are subject to final approval by the CORE Council of the United Centers for Spiritual Living.