National Decertification Index

NDI Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the National Decertification Index (NDI)?

The NDI is a web-based database application containing records of government regulatory actions taken against police and correctional officers found guilty of misconduct.

Who enters the records regarding officer misconduct?

The records are entered by the governing body in each state charged with establishing standards for police officer training and certification. These state agencies are known as POST Agencies. **P**olice **O**fficer **S**tandards and **T**raining.

Do all states have a POST agency?

No, not yet. Hawaii and Rhode Island do not have formally established POSTs. However, recent legislation has passed in Hawaii to form a POST agency.

How is IADLEST involved with the NDI?

IADLEST stands for **I**nternational **A**ssociation of **D**irectors of **L**aw **E**nforcement **S**tandards and **T**raining. It is a membership association of the POST directors in each state, although other members include academy directors and other individuals and organizations which are deeply involved in law enforcement education.

IADLEST proposed the idea of a national database tracking de-certifications to the Department of Justice in the year 2000, and used the resulting funding to create the online web application. The NDI was revised and updated in 2005 and is presently undergoing another revision funded by DOJ.

Who are the end users of the NDI?

The primary users are law enforcement agencies and background investigators who use the records in the NDI as a part of their pre-employment screening process prior to hiring police, sheriff and correctional officers.

Since the NDI is national in scope it alerts the hiring agency in cases where an individual who has been de-certified on one state seeks employment in a neighboring state.

Who can get access to the NDI?

Although IADLEST hosts the NDI online, most access is controlled by the POST agency, or certifying agency in each state. The Department of Defense grants access to Military Law Enforcement agencies and IADLEST grants access to most Federal agencies.

How much does it cost to access the NDI?

There is *no cost whatsoever.* The NDI is operated as a service of IADLEST.

What sort of information is stored in the database for de-certified officers?

The NDI is basically a pointer system. Very little information is in the database regarding actions against individuals beyond a simple statement of De-certified, Suspended, Probation, Voluntary Relinquishment, etc. Some states also post officers that are under investigation for misconduct since some decertification investigations can take up to a year or more to complete.

However, the individual making the query is informed by the system of the contact information for the agency which entered the record, allowing that person to contact the certifying agency for more details if they wish to do so.

Is the NDI a sort of blacklist?

No. We make it very clear that certification and behavior standards differ widely from one state to another. What qualifies for de-certification in one state may be perfectly acceptable in another state.

Individuals making queries are encouraged to follow-up with the certifying agency to get details on any action entered in the database.

Can the general public obtain a login to the NDI?

No. The state POST agencies issue login credentials to police departments, sheriff's offices, correctional facilities and background investigators who are involved in the hiring of officers.

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