

CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT (CQE)

WHAT IS A CQE?

- **The CQE is a certificate for which an individual who is subject to a civil impact (prior criminal conviction) may obtain an order of limited relief from a common pleas court that will provide relief from certain bars to employment or licensing in the State of Ohio.**

EMPLOYER BENEFITS

- **Ohio Work Opportunity Tax Credit**
- **Federal Bonding**
- **CQEs provide legal protection from negligent hiring lawsuits for employers who knowingly hire CQE holders. (See Ohio Revised Code Section 2953.25)**
- **CQEs allow employers or licensing agencies *discretion* to individually assess an applicant's suitability to hire.**

WHO GRANTS THE CQE?

The decision to issue a CQE is determined by the Court of Common Pleas in the county where the petitioner currently resides.

- **Petitioners must complete a 15 page petition that includes, prior convictions, prior employment, rehabilitation rationale, professional and personal references.**
- **CQE Petitions are thoroughly reviewed by staff at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Court of Common Pleas, with input from prosecutors and multiple judges.**
- **Employers can request the individual CQE print-out from the applicant and can check the validity of a CQE at: http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/cqe_list.pdf (this list is updated every 4— 6 weeks)**

For more information regarding the CQE send your inquiries to: DRC.OfficeofReentry@odrc.state.oh.us