




Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION **TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 2024-09**

DATE: May 22, 2024
TO: Criminal Justice Training Center Directors
FROM: Director Chad Brown 
Criminal Justice Professionalism Division
SUBJECT: Non-Disclosure Agreement for the State Officer Certification Exam

When a candidate sits for the State Officer Certification Exam (SOCE), they are presented with several pages of information before the exam officially begins. One of these pages is a non-disclosure agreement (NDA). The NDA is in place to ensure that candidates do not share or distribute the items or images that they see during the exam. The SOCE is a high-stakes certification exam, and test security is paramount. Recently, FDLE staff noted that many candidates mark that they do not agree with the NDA. When that happens, the exam is immediately shut down, and the candidate cannot continue with the SOCE. Furthermore, based on the coding between FDLE and its contract provider Pearson VUE, when a candidate declines the NDA, it treats this as the candidate forfeiting one of their three attempts at the SOCE. Obviously, FDLE and Pearson VUE work together to restore these attempts, but the process is complicated and drains resources from FDLE's Information Technology Services (ITS).

Based on staff research, it appears that most of these incidents were accidents where the candidates did not mean to disagree. That being said, FDLE staff encourages training center directors, coordinators, instructors, and agency hiring personnel to remind their candidates to take the time to read through the opening pages during the exam. Not only do they contain the NDA agreement, but they also include other information on how to take the exam.

If you have any questions, please contact Training and Research Manager Jack Owens at JackOwens@fdle.state.fl.us or (850) 410-8669.

cc: Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission