

FAQS ON DECLARATION OF OFFENCES, MISCONDUCT AND BEHAVIOURS

Q1) Why do I need to declare criminal offences, professional misconduct and/or behavioural concerns to SMC?

You should declare any criminal offences, professional misconduct, and/or behavioural concerns as SMC needs to assess your fitness to practise medicine safely in Singapore. This helps maintain high professional standards and protect public safety. While having such incidents does not automatically disqualify you, failing to declare them may result in the rejection of your application and/or disciplinary actions.

Q2) What types of offences, misconduct, or behaviours must I declare?

Things you should declare include (but are not limited to):

- All criminal offences (including warnings, stern warnings, composition fines)
- Professional misconduct in any jurisdiction(s)
- Disciplinary actions during medical school or medical practice
- Investigations and complaints by any medical regulatory authority
- Any restriction or limitation on your medical registration/practice

You do not need to declare any of the above matters if they were investigated, found to be untrue and subsequently dismissed.

When in doubt, it is better to declare than to omit.

Q3) Do I need to declare disciplinary action(s) taken against me during medical school?

Yes, you should declare any disciplinary action(s) taken against you during medical school, including those involving clinical attachments etc. which may be held at institutions outside of your medical school.

Nonetheless:

- You do not need to declare matters that were investigated, found to be untrue and subsequently dismissed.
- You may check with your medical school on what are the issues that would be declared in their Dean's Testimonial or their report to SMC. Your declaration should align with the school's disclosure.

Please note that if you commit any offence as a practising doctor, SMC reserves the rights to write to your medical school to release records that they may otherwise sealed.

Q4) What supporting documents do I need to submit with my declarations?

If you declare that you have a criminal offence, professional misconduct or behavioural concern that may impair your fitness to practise, SMC will require you to provide documents like:

- Official documents from relevant authorities stating the nature of the offence/incident
- Outcome of proceedings/investigations
- Any letters of warning
- Evidence of completion of any penalties/sanctions
- Letters of explanation from yourself describing the incident

Q5) Does SMC disclose my declarations to employers e.g. MOHH or the Healthcare Institution? / Will my declarations be kept confidential?

SMC respects your confidentiality and will not disclose information about your declarations to your employer, or the healthcare institution you work in, without your permission.

Q6) Do medical schools provide information of my declarations to SMC upon graduation?

Medical schools may share information with SMC concerning criminal offences, professional misconduct or behavioural concerns on a need-to-know basis. Such matters include academic dishonesty (cheating and plagiarism), criminal behaviours (theft and falsification of documents, reports, records) and serious misconduct (assault, harassment, bullying and drug or sexual offences). You are advised to declare these matters accurately in your application to SMC, as your declarations will be verified against the information shared by your medical schools.

Such information obtained from the medical schools will not be shared with your employer or the healthcare institution that you work in, without your permission.

Q7) What will happen after I declare a criminal offence, professional misconduct and/or behavioural concern in my registration application?

1. When you submit declarations of this nature, SMC will review the case, taking into account factors such as:
 - a) The nature and severity of the offence or misconduct
 - b) When the incident occurred
 - c) Any mitigating circumstances
 - d) Evidence of rehabilitation or remediation
 - e) Whether fitness to practise is impaired
 - f) Potential risks to patient safety or public confidence
 - g) Whether you demonstrate sufficient insight and are unlikely to repeat the offence or misconduct
2. SMC may contact you to request additional information if required. Following assessment, SMC may attach specific conditions to your registration or reject your application. If your application is unsuccessful, you may submit an appeal through the established appeal process indicated in the rejection letter.

Q8) What are the consequences of failing to declare relevant information in my application?

Under Section 62 of the Medical Registration Act 1997, any person who knowingly produces any false or fraudulent declaration shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

Not declaring accurately will also unfavourably affect your registration status.