August 8, 2016

Q: Is it mandatory for a LTC facility to check the various sex offender registries for a nurse hire? It is clear for a non-licensed person, but not clear on a licensed person.

A: The Health Care Worker Background Check (HCWBC) Act and Code only apply to unlicensed workers, so there would be no mandated requirement to check sex offender registries for a licensed nurse, but if the facility has a policy (which is a good idea) that states that they will check various registries for licensed staff, IDPH would expect them to follow their own policies. Better to be safe than sorry and check all employees.