

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND LICENSING
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

IN RE: Welton Riddle – **WAIVER REQUEST**

ORDER

This matter came before the Board of Electrical Examiners (the “Board”) on Tuesday September 19, 2023. The petitioner, Welton Riddle (“Riddle”), seeks approval for an electrical apprenticeship license. Riddle is currently ineligible to obtain an electrical apprenticeship license due to a prior felony conviction. The Board of Electrical Examiners has authority to waive disqualification of a license due to a criminal conviction if the Board decides that the applicant meets requirements listed in the Ark. Code Ann. § 17-3-102(b)(2). Riddle appeared before the Board via zoom for the hearing.

FINDING OF FACT:

1. Riddle is requesting approval from the Board to obtain an electrical apprenticeship license. Due to his prior felony conviction from 1997, he is ineligible for licensure.
2. Riddle appeared before the Board via zoom for the hearing.
3. Staff reviewed documents provided by Riddle and recommended approving the waiver request.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

1. The Board has authority to waive disqualification of licensure due to a criminal conviction pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 17-3-102(b)(1).
2. A basis upon which a waiver may be granted includes without limitation:
 - a. The age at which the offense was committed;
 - b. The circumstances surrounding the offense;
 - c. The length of time since the offense was committed;
 - d. Subsequent work history since the offense was committed;

- e. Employment references since the offense was committed;
 - f. Character references since the offense was committed;
 - g. Relevance of the offense to the occupational license; and
 - h. Other evidence demonstrating that licensure of the applicant does not pose a threat to the health and safety of the public. Ark. Code Ann. § 17-3-102(b)(2).
3. In the present case, the Board was informed of the nature of the criminal conviction and reviewed professional reference letters provided by Riddle.
 4. Riddle appeared before the Board via zoom for the hearing.
 5. The Board was satisfied with the information Riddle provided and voted to approve his waiver request.

THEREFORE, the Board grants Welton Riddle's waiver request to obtain an electrical apprenticeship license.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS BOARD


Richard Ledbetter, Vice-Chair

9-21-23
Date

Approved by:

/s/ Miles Morgan

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