



County Technical Assistance Service

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Job-Related Medical Examinations

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS electronic library known as e-Li. This online library is maintained daily by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other e-Li material.

Sincerely,

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Job-Related Medical Examinations

Reference Number: CTAS-2026

Employers may request an employee complete a medical examination when the examination is job-related and consistent with business necessity. 29 C.F.R. § 1630.10(a). The employer must have a reasonable belief that the employee's ability to perform their job is being impaired by a medical condition or that the employee poses a direct threat due to a medical condition.

A medical examination is also considered job-related and consistent with business necessity when—

- It is a follow-up to a request for a reasonable accommodation or
- It is a periodic medical examination.

It is important that an employer's belief that a medical condition is affecting an employee's ability to perform essential job functions be based on objective evidence. The Amendments Act added a provision that employers cannot screen out an applicant because of uncorrected vision unless it is job-related and consistent with business necessity. 29 C.F.R. § 1630.10(b).

When considering the reliability of information learned from another person, employers should consider—

- The relationship of the person providing the information to the employee in question.
 - The seriousness of the medical condition.
 - The motivation of the person providing the information.
 - How the person learned the information.
 - Any other evidence that may affect the reliability of the information.
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