

# ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS



Within the UK, The Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) is the leading professional body for accounting technicians, providing qualifications and upholding membership standards in the accounting profession.

## Criminal convictions prior to joining the profession

The accounting professional bodies (chartered or otherwise) all share a similar test for disclosure of a criminal conviction. The bodies will assess whether a person is 'fit and proper' when examining the character and suitability of an applicant.

Overall, each organisation will take a robust approach to applications who disclose an unspent criminal conviction, expecting members to act with the highest standards of integrity, both in and outside their professional lives.

Applicants generally do not need to declare spent criminal convictions or any road traffic offence which was dealt with by way of fixed penalty notice. However, this would not be applicable to drink/drug drive cases, failing to provide etc.

Crimes of dishonesty or serious organised/financial crime will normally lead to a refusal of membership. For motoring offences, these will be decided on a case by case basis. For example, the AAT consider the following criteria:

- The nature of the conviction(s), and the sentence imposed
- Whether the conviction was tried on document, or summary only (Magistrates' or Crown Court matter)
- The length of time since the conviction
- Evidence of rehabilitation
- Whether there is a history of offending
- The circumstances surrounding the offending, taking into account aggravating and mitigating circumstances

- Any sentencing remarks by a judge/lay magistrates
- Character references (at least two)
- Any other representations put forward to support an application

Should an applicant fail to disclose a criminal conviction which would be material to determination of their fit and proper status and the matter later comes to light, the AAT may investigate in accordance with their Disciplinary Regulations

## Conviction during membership

The organisations will likely require declaration of a criminal conviction if you are already a member of one of the professional bodies.

The AAT must be notified by members of any criminal conviction within 30 days of the date of the conviction. Failure to do so will normally amount to misconduct. Following disclosure of a criminal conviction, this will be investigated in accordance with their Disciplinary Regulations. The similar process of assessing whether you are 'fit and proper' is likely to follow the disclosure of a criminal conviction whilst in the profession.

## What do I do next?

We are always happy to discuss your case with you, we are specialists in defending drivers nationwide for all types of motoring offences. Call our team on **0800 1389 123** for some free initial advice.

**CALL US NOW ON FREEPHONE**  
**0800 1389 123**



**Call Geoffrey Miller Solicitors**  
**24 hours 7 days a week**

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