

# **CQE: Certificate of Qualification for Employment**



## **What is a CQE?**

CQE is short for Certificate of Qualification for Employment. It helps people with criminal records obtain employment. A CQE holder has gone through a rigorous review process by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, a judge, and a probation department. The result of the process is a determination that the person is rehabilitated and ready to enter the workforce.



## **How does a CQE benefit employers?**

1. A CQE allows an employer hire someone with a criminal record that previously excluded them from consideration.
2. A CQE provides immunity to employers for negligent hiring claims.



## **What does it mean when a person has a CQE?**

A CQE allows an employer to individually assess whether a person is right for the job regardless of their criminal record. It makes the hiring process discretionary even if the person was previously prohibited from a certain type of employment because of a criminal conviction.



## **Where can I learn more?**

If you have additional questions about how CQEs can benefit your business, please visit our website at [seols.org](http://seols.org).

### **How to contact us:**

Call us at 614-824-2503 or 844-302-1800  
Visit us online at [seols.org](http://seols.org) or [columbuslegalaid.org](http://columbuslegalaid.org)

**The information on this flyer is not legal advice.**

**If you are seeking representation or legal advice, please contact SEOLS or LASC.  
An attorney-client relationship does not exist between you and SEOLS or LASC.**