

Municipal Fire Fighter Maximum Hiring Age Information Sheet

Based on the NJ Attorney General Opinion Issued February 25, 1997

Candidates over age 35 as of the closing date of the examination are not eligible for appointment to Municipal Fire Fighter positions, *with certain exceptions.*

- A candidate is considered to be **over** 35 on the day of their 35th birthday.
- Candidates may be able to reduce their age based on certain military service.
- Candidates who pass the examination are eligible for appointment for the life of the eligible list, even if they turn 35 years old while on an active list.

A provision exists for adjusting (reducing) a candidate's actual age for purposes of meeting the maximum age 35 requirement:

• AGE REDUCTION FOR MILITARY SERVICE

Prior military service during the periods and under the conditions specified in the Civil Service Act related to veterans' preference may be deducted from actual age as of the closing date of the examination, or as of the date of appointment for volunteer and exempt Fire Fighters. Military service that does not take place within the periods and under the conditions specified **cannot** be deducted from actual age.

Example: A candidate, age 40 years, had 6 years of qualifying military service.

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| A. Age as of examination closing date: | <u>40</u> |
| B. Amount of qualifying military service: | <u>6</u> |
| C. Final adjusted age (Subtract B from A): | <u>34</u> |

This candidate is eligible to take the examination and be appointed to a Fire Fighter position because his final adjusted age is under 35.

• VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER SERVICE

The maximum hiring age for Volunteer and Exempt Fire Fighters, who volunteer at a fire department which has a part-paid and part volunteer component, is 40 (one is considered to be over 40 on the day of one's 40th birthday). Volunteer and Exempt Fire Fighters cannot be appointed if they are over 40, even if the list they are on is still active.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AGE ADJUSTMENT WORKSHEET

VOLUNTEER & EXEMPT

- A. Age as of the Appointment Date:** _____
- B. Amount of prior qualifying military service:** _____
- C. Final adjusted age (Subtract B from A):** _____

NON-VOLUNTEER

- A. Age as of the Closing Date:** _____
- B. Amount of prior qualifying military service:** _____
- C. Final adjusted age (Subtract B from A):** _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPLYING TO MUNICIPAL FIRE FIGHTER CERTIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT

1. If a candidate receives a "Notification of Certification," he or she must respond in writing to the appointing authority named in the notification within five business days of the notice date on the notification. If the candidate does not respond in writing to the appointing authority, the candidate will be removed from consideration for appointment as a Fire Fighter.
2. The local appointing authority will require the candidate to provide proof of age, and military service (if applicable). A candidate claiming an adjusted age based on military service will need a copy of his or her military separation papers (DD214) showing the beginning and ending dates of qualifying service, and the location of the qualifying conflict in which he or she served. If the separation papers do not include this information, the candidate will have to obtain written certification from the military service branch in which he or she served that includes this information.
3. If a candidate cannot reduce his or her age as described in # 2, and is over the maximum hiring age for Fire Fighter as of the closing date of the examination announcement, the candidate must inform the appointing authority, when responding to the "Notice of Certification," that he or she does not qualify for appointment because he or she is over age. If a volunteer or exempt Fire Fighter candidate is over age 40 as of the date of appointment, the candidate must also inform the appointing authority when responding to the "Notice of Certification," that he or she does not qualify for appointment because he or she is over age.