

## Could A Noncompete Keep You from Getting Work?

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Craig M. Bonnist

If you are in the market for a new job or freelance gig, don't be surprised if you're asked to sign a noncompete agreement as a condition of employment. Problem is, a noncompete could hamper your ability to earn a decent living down the road.

### **When You're Asked to Sign A Noncompete**

Prepare to answer questions from prospective employers about noncompetes you signed that are still in force.

During the interview process, you might be asked if you have one. Craig Bonnist, an employment lawyer with McCarter & English, in Stamford, Conn. and New York City, says you must disclose this information if the subject comes up. Even if you're not asked directly, you should raise the issue.

"A misrepresentation on the employment application or in the interview process can be grounds for subsequent termination, and that termination would probably be for just cause if an employment contract exists," warns Bonnist.