



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OHIO HOMELAND SECURITY – PI/SG

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PI/SG

LICENSURE INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

LICENSURE INFORMATION

I. Who needs a Private Investigator License? The “business of private investigation” is defined in Section 4749.01 (B)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code and means:

. . . except when performed by one excluded under division (H) of this section, the conducting, for hire, in person or through a partner or employees, of any investigation relevant to any crime or wrong done or threatened, or to obtain information on the identity, habits, conduct, movements, whereabouts, affiliations, transactions, reputation, credibility, or character of any person, or to locate and recover lost or stolen property, or to determine the cause of or responsibility for any libel or slander, or any fire, accident, or damage to property, or to secure evidence for use in any legislative, administrative, or judicial investigation or proceeding.

II. Who needs a Security Services License? The “business of security services” is defined in Section 4749.01 (D) of the Ohio Revised Code and means either of the following:

- (1) Furnishing, for hire, watchpersons, guards, private patrol officers, or other persons whose primary duties are to protect persons or property;
- (2) Furnishing, for hire, guard dogs, or armored motor vehicle security services, in connection with the protection of persons or property.

The exceptions to licensure for private investigators and security services providers are listed in Section 4749.01 (H).

III. Requirements for licensure as a Private Investigator or Security Services Provider are found in Section 4749.03 of the Ohio Revised Code and Rules 4501:5-1-02, 4501:5-1-06, 4501:5-1-07, and 4501:5-1-08 of the Ohio Administrative Code. Any individual, partnership or corporation may be licensed to conduct the business of private investigation or security services, or both, if the applicant meets the following requirements:

- a. Has a good reputation for integrity, has not been convicted of a felony within the last twenty years or any offense involving moral turpitude, and has not been adjudicated incompetent for the purpose of holding the license, as provided in 5122.30.1 of the Revised Code, without having been restored to legal capacity for that purpose.
- b. Depending upon the class of license for which application is made, for a continuous period of at least two years immediately preceding application for a license, has been engaged in investigatory or security services work for a law enforcement or other public agency engaged in investigatory activities, or for a private investigator or security guard provider, or engaged in the practice of law, or has acquired equivalent experience as determined by rule of the director of public safety.
- c. Demonstrates competency as a private investigator or security guard provider by passing an examination devised for this purpose by the director of public safety.
- d. Submits evidence of comprehensive general liability insurance coverage, or other equivalent guarantee approved by the director in such form and in principal amounts satisfactory to the director, but not less than one hundred thousand dollars for each person and three hundred thousand dollars for each occurrence for bodily injury liability, and one hundred thousand dollars for property damage liability.
- e. Pays the requisite examination (\$25 fee which is non-refundable) and license fee (\$375 which is refundable if a license is not issued).
- f. Satisfactorily passes the criminal background check.
- g. Provides character references from at least five reputable citizens, each of whom has known the applicant, officer, or qualifying agent for at least five years preceding the application, and none of whom are connected with the applicant, officer, or qualifying agent by blood or marriage.