

The Observer

PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR SECURITY
GUARD SERVICES NEWSLETTER



January 2018

New Voluntary Accreditation Program Leads Nation

The Ohio Private Investigation and Security Services Commission (OPISSC), and Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS), are very excited to announce the launch of a voluntary accreditation program for licensed private investigators and security service providers. Ohio leads the nation in establishing such a program, which focuses on a set of standards that OPISSC feels all providers should meet in order to safely provide security and private investigator services.

The Accreditation will begin with the following six standards. Additional standards will be released in the coming years.

- 1. Role and Authority** – ensures providers are guiding employees in their job expectations and their role as a security guard or investigator under Ohio law;
- 2. Use of Force** – ensures providers have a use of force policy that is followed for armed employees;
- 3. Recruitment** – ensures providers are properly vetting their employees, including drug and criminal background checks, and that they are following EEO practices to attract a qualified, diverse workforce;
- 4. Performance Evaluations** – ensures providers are properly and regularly evaluating their employees;
- 5. Critical Policies** – ensures providers have policies in place to address critical areas, such as access control, medical response, active shooter and evacuations;
- 6. Company Records** – ensures providers are keeping accurate business records.

By engaging in the voluntary accreditation program, licensed companies can demonstrate a commitment to providing outstanding services, thus creating a Safer Ohio.

For more information on the program, see “Voluntary Accreditation Program” under Quick Links on the PISGS website: www.pisgs.ohio.gov

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Guest Blog



Did you know?



Safer Ohio Standout

Human Trafficking Awareness Month: How Security Guards and Private Investigators Can Help

Each year, Human Trafficking Awareness Month is a sobering reminder of the fact that men, women and children across Ohio are suffering unspeakable forms of exploitation, abuse and violence. January presents a timely opportunity to learn about human trafficking, raise awareness within communities, and reflect on how to personally and professionally respond to the ongoing exploitation of Ohio's citizens.

Simply defined, human trafficking is a crime where people profit from the control and exploitation of others. An Ohio study estimates that there are 1,000 children currently being commercially sexually exploited, and an additional 3,000 runaway children are at risk of being trafficked. Further, local law enforcement identified over 530 victims of human trafficking between 2014 and 2016.

Human trafficking can take many forms, all of which fall within two basic categories: labor trafficking and sex trafficking. In both instances, a victim is recruited, harbored, transported, obtained or provided by means of force, fraud or coercion, for the purpose of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Due to the nature of the crime, cases often include elements of physical assault, sexual assault, confinement, threats of serious harm against a person or their family and the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process. Cases in Ohio have ranged from traffickers forcing women to perform commercial sex acts by means of physical force, to parents who sell their children for sex to feed a drug addiction, to foreign national men, women and children being forced to work on egg farms and live in dilapidated trailers while receiving threats of harm to their families abroad.

Due to the fact that traffickers often rely on fraud, threats and physical harm to compel victims into commercial sex or forced labor, cases of human trafficking are complex and are not easily identified by the untrained eye. However, when equipped with the relevant signs and indicators, private investigators and security guards have a unique and strategic role to play in identifying potential victims and breaking cycles of exploitation. There is a clear intersection between human trafficking and locations that are patrolled by security, such as businesses, malls, workplaces and large public or private events. Given the observant nature of an investigator and guard's duties to attentively survey their surroundings, there is a natural partnership that exists between security personnel and the state of Ohio's coordinated anti-trafficking efforts.

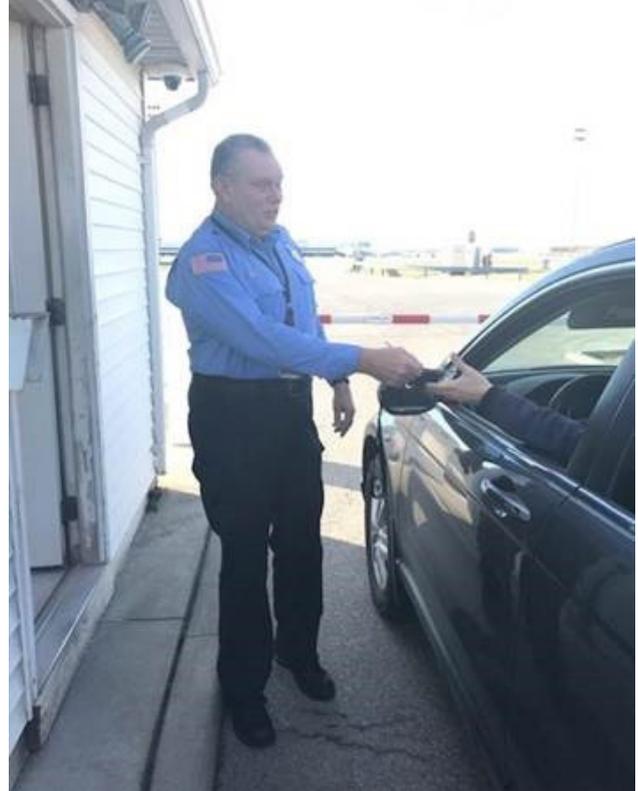
For these reasons, Governor Kasich's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force developed a free 50-minute online training for professionals licensed and registered by the state, including private investigators and security guards. (Access training here: http://pisgs.ohio.gov/toolkit/anti_ht.stm) This training includes Ohio-specific human trafficking case examples, signs and indicators for identifying potential victims, vulnerabilities to victimization, challenges to identifying victims and methods for responding to a potential trafficking case. Since December 2015, approximately 180 private investigators and security guards have completed the training, which is 180 frontline responders who are more equipped to identify trafficking and potentially break a pattern of exploitation in the lives of Ohio's most vulnerable populations.

Thus, Human Trafficking Awareness Month presents a renewed sense of urgency to the state of Ohio, as well as to Ohio's private investigators and security guards to put forth greater time, energy and commitment to protecting exploited men, women and children. While the sobering reminder of the prevalence of human trafficking remains daunting, the efforts made by proactive citizens to combat trafficking point to the greater hope of restored lives and ultimately, a safer Ohio.

SAFER OHIO STANDOUT

Rural Metro Fire Dept's. Security Division would like to nominate Lead Security Guard Charles Heiskel for the Ohio PISGS Safer Ohio Standout.

Lead Security Guard Charles Heiskel has been employed with Rural Metro Fire's Security Division since July 2004. He is one of eight guards assigned to validate personnel and vehicles as having a need to access the John Glenn International Airport airfield. He is always about job first, handling his duties with efficiency and is always easy to work with. Mr. Heiskel is consistently focused on watching for individuals who may be involved with criminal activity, actively catching things such as suspicious persons/vehicles and reporting anything that may be a concern to the airport police officers. Charles is an inspiration to Rural Metro and others in the security field.



For 28 years, Terry Myer Sr., CEO of Columbus Detective Agency, has worked hard to build a reputable investigation business in Ohio and now is giving back some of his success to help others. Mr. Myer is an active member of numerous associations across the United States that serve this industry, including his role as President of the National Council of Investigation & Security Services (NCISS). In August 2017, he was appointed to the Board of Directors for NAMEC (National Association of Missing and Exploited Children). He also works in D.C. every March one on one with Congressmen and Senators, expressing the needs of the industry and protecting it from laws that could have an adverse effect on the industry nationwide.

Mr. Myer brings his many years of experience and expertise in Ohio to other state and national organizations as a way to improve the industry as a whole.

Congratulations to Safer Ohio Standout Terry Myer Sr.



Did you know?



Renewal Season is in full swing!

All PISGS licenses expire on **March 1, 2018**. Licensed providers must renew their license and qualifying agent(s) prior to that date.

****If you let your license expire, you cannot provide services, advertise, or solicit business; and all registered employees are terminated.****

Note: If you have closed your business, please mail us a letter indicating the date your business ceased operation in order to avoid further communications regarding license renewal. Also include your wall license and qualifying agent wallet card.

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