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Specific Requirements and Training for a PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR

This is a simple outline of the requirements and training guidelines to do with the particular security licence type, *Private Investigator*. More complete and detailed information, plus links to legislation, policies and contacts, can be found on the Security Industry and Licensing website: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/securityindustry

It is important to refer to the "Guide for Security Workers" when you are ready to submit an application to the Registrar. You may download the guide from: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/securityindustry/worker/forms-guide.htm

Notes:

- **IN HOUSE P.I.:** *If you are employed by a business that does not hold a security business licence (such as a hospital, retail store or university).*
- **P.I. FROM OUTSIDE B.C.:** *if you are an out-of-province Private Investigator, you may apply to the Registrar for a short-term licence exemption solely for the purpose of conducting or continuing an investigation on behalf of an employer/client outside B.C. (See Section 2.2.3 of the Security Licensing Process and Licence Conditions Policies.)*

DESCRIPTION:

Private investigators may seek or obtain information about crimes, offences, contraventions or misconduct or of allegations of the same. They may look into the activities, character or repute of a person or an organization, seek the whereabouts of a person, seek the location, disposition or recover of lost, stolen or missing property. They may also look into the cause or the responsibility of a fire, accident or incident in which damage to property or injury to another person has occurred. The legal definition of private investigator and various factors may have to be considered by the Registrar in determining whether an individual requires a private investigator licence. (See Section 2.2.2 of the Security Licensing Process and Licence Conditions Policies and see Regulation section 15(4) item 4.)

TRAINING, EXPERIENCE and/or QUALIFICATIONS:

To apply for a Private Investigator licence, *one* of the following three requirements will have to be proven:

- 1) Two years of experience, all within the last five years, providing the services of a private investigator and successful completion of courses in the areas of: criminal law, civil law and process, human rights legislation, information and privacy legislation, evidence recognition, presentation and protocols, interviewing techniques, report writing, documentary research (electronic and hard copy) and surveillance techniques; or
- 2) If currently holding a private investigator under supervision licence and ready to apply for a *full, un-restricted* Private Investigator licence, you must prove: 2400 hours or more of work experience including: the names of employers, the names of your licensed private investigator supervisors, the dates of employment, and the hours logged with each employer, the successful completion of the courses identified (1) above, in the form of a diploma or report from the educational facility attended; or
- 3) Five years experience performing general police duties in a Canadian police force, ending not more than five years prior to the date of the application for a security worker licence; or
- 4) The knowledge and experience equivalent to that which would be obtained under (1) above.

Private Investigators are also expected to be sufficiently fluent in the English language to converse with the public while carrying out duties.

REQUIREMENTS FOR KEEPING YOUR LICENCE:

You must comply with the Security Services Act and Regulations, which include, *but are not limited to*, the following requirements:

- Ensure all information the Registrar holds on you is up to date (residential address, any new criminal charges or convictions, a change in peace officer status, treatment for a mental condition or change in legal name).
- Keep the security worker licence current and carry the licence at all times when providing security work.
- Complete use-of-force reports detailing any incident when any type of force against another person was used while engaged in security work.
- Follow the Code of Conduct (in the Security Services Regulations), ensuring you carry out your work as a licensed security worker in a professional, honest and respectful way.
- While engaged in security work, you may not carry or use a restraining device, any weapon, ammunition or device prohibited by the Criminal Code, or any other item designed for debilitating or controlling a person or animal UNLESS authorized by the Registrar.