



Eligibility Requirements for Private Investigator and/or Security Guard

Basic Requirements for All Licensees

Regardless of whether you intend to apply for an individual or firm license, as a private investigator or security guard, there are nine basic requirements that apply to all applicants. For a firm, these basic requirements apply to all officers, member or partners, and all employees who will conduct business.

1. Be at least 18 years old or older.
2. Be a citizen of the United States, or an alien legally residing in the United States.
3. Be of good moral character.
4. Have not had a previous private investigator or security guard license revoked or denied in West Virginia or any other state.
5. Have not been declared incompetent by a court because of a mental defect or illness.
6. Do not suffer from narcotics addiction or dependence or habitual drunkenness.
7. Have not been convicted of a felony in this state or any other state or territory.
8. Have not been convicted of any of these crimes:
 - o Illegally using, carrying or possessing a pistol or other dangerous weapon;
 - o Making or possessing burglar's instruments;
 - o Buying or receiving stolen property;
 - o Entering a building unlawfully;
 - o Aiding an inmate's escape from prison;
 - o Possessing or distributing illicit drugs; or
 - o Any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or for which dishonesty of character is a necessary element.
9. Have never:
 - o Engaged in the private investigation or security guard business without a license;
 - o Transferred my license to an unlicensed person or subcontracted with an unlicensed person or firm to conduct investigations or security guard business;
 - o Employed anyone to conduct investigations or security guard business who was in violation of any of the prohibitions or requirements of law;
 - o Falsely represented that I am or any other person is licensed as an investigator or guard;
 - o Made any false report with respect to any matter relating to my employment;
 - o Divulged any information obtained from or for a client without express permission;
 - o Knowingly accepted employment to obtain information intended for illegal purposes; or
 - o Authorized another person to violate the law or rules.