



**GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE KAREN C. HANDEL**

**GEORGIA BOARD OF PRIVATE DETECTIVES AND SECURITY AGENCIES**



*Online News Vol. 1, Issue 2*

**Georgia Board of Private  
Detective and Security Agencies**

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(478) 207-2440 phone  
(866) 888-8026 fax  
[www.sos.ga.gov/plb/detective](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/detective)

**Board Members:**

James "Tripp" Mitchell, *Chairman*  
Gary A. Baker, *Cognizant Member*  
John Villines  
Chief Woodrow W. Blue, Jr.  
Vernon M. Keenan  
Mr. Robert F. Warner  
Patricia Mincey

**Board Staff:**

Steve Lindsey  
Executive Director  
Georgia Board of Private Detective and  
Security Agencies

**Update from the Director of the Professional  
Licensing Boards:**

Last quarter we detailed some of the initiatives that were being instituted here at PLB. We have continued to infuse technology into our business processes in order to provide the best possible service to applicants, licensees and the general public.

During this quarter we have worked diligently to improve our ability to communicate electronically with the various groups with whom we interact. These communications include this quarterly newsletter and other general correspondence with license applicants and constituents. This initiative involved us gathering and updating email addresses. Please visit our website at [www.sos.ga.gov/plb](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb) and make sure that we have the correct email address for you! As a state agency it is of the utmost importance for us to operate with fiscal responsibility. Using email considerably reduces our mailing costs and allows us to communicate with you much faster.

In the next few issues of our newsletter we will be sharing other electronic initiatives that are saving time and money and helping us to serve you with excellence. We look forward to the opportunity to assist you in the very near future.

Regards,

***Randy Vaughn***

Director of the Professional Licensing Boards

**Number of Active Licensees:**

Company - Private Detective: 632  
Company - Security: 366  
Company - Private Detective/Security:  
164  
Company - In-House Security: 16  
Employee - Private Detective: 1,779  
Employee - Private Detect/Security  
Guard: 382  
Employee - Security Guard: 3,215  
Employee - In-House Private Detective:  
19  
Employee - In-House Armed Security:  
277  
Instructor - Classroom Training: 222  
Instructor - Firearms Training: 26  
Instructor - Classroom/Firearm Training:  
272

The Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies consists of seven members: two private detectives, two private security businessmen, two state, county or municipal law enforcement officers and one consumer member. Typically, the Board meets six times each year. Board meetings are open to the public, with the exception of executive session, in which confidential matters such as complaints, disciplinary items, and applications are discussed.

The Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies was created for the purpose of safeguarding the citizens of this state by regulation of the private detective and security businesses. The regulation of such business is declared to be in the public interest.

Private detective businesses and private security companies are required to have a company license issued by the Board. The private detective employee, armed or unarmed, must be registered as an employee with the private detective company. Armed security guards must also be registered with a security company. Unarmed security guards are not required to be registered but must have completed the minimum number of training requirements set by board rule. The Board also licenses training instructors to regulate all training requirements for licensure, registration, and weapon permits required by the law.

Concealed and exposed weapon permits are issued only upon a complete employee application submitted by the company. The company certifies that the employee has met the training requirements of the law and rules.

Minutes from the Board meetings can be found on the Board's website:  
[www.sos.ga.gov/plb/detective](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/detective).

**2009 Meeting Dates:**

July 30, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.  
September 24, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.  
November 5, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

The Board meets at the Professional Licensing Board office in Macon.

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## License Renewals:

Licenses expire as follows:

Company, In-House Security: June 30 of odd numbered years  
Company, Private Detective: June 30 of odd numbered years  
Company, Private Detective / Security: June 30 of odd numbered years  
Company, Security: June 30 of odd numbered years  
Instructor, Classroom Training: June 30 of odd numbered years  
Instructor, Classroom / Firearm Training: June 30 of odd numbered years  
Instructor, Firearms Training: June 30 of odd numbered years  
Employee, In-House Armed Security: August 31 of odd numbered years  
Employee, In-House Private Detective: August 31 of odd numbered years  
Employee, Private Detective / Security Guard: August 31 of odd numbered years  
Employee, Private Detective: August 31 of odd numbered years  
Employee, Security Guard: August 31 of odd numbered years

**It is illegal to practice as a private detective or private security officer with an expired license.**

### How do I renew my license?

**You may renew your license on the Professional Licensing Board website** with a credit card. Click on the “License Renewal” icon and follow the instructions. You will be asked a series of questions including whether you have been arrested, convicted or received a board sanction since your last renewal, whether you have completed your continuing education requirements, and whether or not you are a U.S. citizen. **Renewing your license via the website is the fastest way to renew your license.**

**The Professional Licensing Boards do not mail paper renewals unless requested.** A paper renewal form may be requested by the licensee by calling the Board office at (478) 207-2440, or submitting a written request. Licensees may also call our automated system at (404) 463-1100 and request a paper renewal form using their personal identification number included in their renewal notice.

### Disciplinary Issues:

The Board addresses these issues on a case-by-case basis and applies sanctions to those who violate the Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies Practice Act, Board rules, and policies. It is important that licensees review all laws, rules and policies that affect their profession. These may be found on the Board’s website at [www.sos.ga.gov/plb/detective](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/detective).

All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies website.

*Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation of a license, or other disciplinary actions may be found at O.C.G.A. § 43-38-11 or at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19, which can be found on the Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies website.*

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## **Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies Complaints Process Information:**

The Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies to regulate the licensing and practice of private detectives and security agents. The responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 43-38 is given to the Board, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints against licensees and allegations of unlicensed practice. The process for disposing of complaints is as follows:

### **Complaint Form:**

Complaints must be reported to and received by the Board in writing. Written complaints may be submitted to the Board office or on-line at <http://sos.georgia.gov/myverification/submitcomplaint.aspx>. Documents received in connection with a complaint will not be returned. The complaint must contain sufficient factual evidence indicating a clear violation of Georgia law or Board rules.

### **Investigations:**

The Board gives serious consideration to all complaints. Further investigative action may be taken. Should you file a complaint, you may be contacted by a Board inspector or investigator for additional information. Investigative files are considered confidential for any purpose other than a hearing before the Board. However, the Board is authorized to release such records to another enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority.

### **Notification Process:**

While the investigation is ongoing, the Board is unable to discuss the status of a complaint with anyone, including the complainant. When the Board has completed the case, the complainant will be notified in writing of the Board's actions. All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Board's website.

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## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

A list of frequently asked questions may be found on the Board's website. If you cannot find an answer to your question, you may contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

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