



# PRIVATE SECURITY OFFICERS AND AGENCIES

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Licensing, licenses and regulates the private security industry in accordance with Chapter 493, Florida Statutes, to ensure the interests of the public are adequately served and protected.

## What Is Private Security?

A **"Security Agency"** is any business that, for consideration, advertises as providing or is engaged in the business of furnishing security services, armored car services or transporting prisoners. This includes any person who utilizes dogs and individuals to provide security services.

A **"Security Officer"** is a person who, for consideration, advertises as providing or performs security services.

Security services include: bodyguard protection; guarding property; transporting prisoners; armored car services; assisting in prevention of theft or unlawful taking of goods, wares and merchandise; and assisting in prevention of the misappropriation or concealment of goods, wares or merchandise, money, bonds, stocks, choses in action, notes or other documents, papers, and articles of value or procurement of the return thereof.

## License Classifications

- Class "D" Security Officer
- Class "G" Statewide Firearm
- Class "K" Statewide Firearm Instructor
- Class "M" Private Investigative and Security Agency Manager
- Class "MB" Security Agency Manager
- Class "B" Security Agency
- Class "BB" Security Agency Branch Office
- Class "AB" Combined Security and Private Investigative Agency Branch Office
- Class "DI" Security Officer Instructor
- Class "DS" Security Officer School or Training Facility

## Firearms

To carry a firearm in the performance of regulated security duties, security officers and agency managers must also obtain a Class "G" Statewide Firearm License. No employee may carry or be furnished a firearm unless it is required by her or his duties and it is carried only in connection with those duties. The firearm must be encased in full view at all times unless otherwise provided by law.



**Florida Department of  
Agriculture and Consumer Services**  
**Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner**

## How Can I Apply For A License?

Any person applying for a license must:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Be a United States citizen, a permanent legal resident of the United States or have been granted authority to work by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service;
- Have no disqualifying criminal history;
- Have no disqualifying history of mental illness or alcohol or controlled substance abuse; and
- Provide a complete application signed in the presence of a notary public, one passport-type color photograph, a full set of fingerprints, appropriate fees and documentation of training.

Visit [FreshFromFlorida.com](http://FreshFromFlorida.com) to download or request forms or application instructions.

## Training And Experience Requirements

- An applicant for a Class "D" Security Officer License must complete 40 hours of training at a licensed school or training facility or complete an acceptable alternative training.
- An applicant for a Class "G" Statewide Firearm License is required to complete an additional 28 hours of range and classroom training administered by a licensed Class "K" Firearms Instructor. Class "G" license holders are required to complete an additional four hours of training annually.
- Agency managers must have a minimum of two years of full-time, verifiable security-related experience.
- Honorably discharged veterans may use relevant military training or experience that is substantially similar to the training or education required for licensure. Submission of official military records is required (see Rule 5N-1.119, F.A.C.)

## What Is The Term Of My License?

Class "B", "BB", "AB" and "K" licenses are valid for a term of three years.

Class "D", "G", "M", "MB", "DS" and "DI" licenses are valid for a term of two years.

## How Can I Renew My License?

The division will mail a renewal notice to the address on file at least 90 days prior to the license expiration date. Renewal notices and supporting documentation can be returned to the division by mail. Renewal services for many license types are available at the division's regional offices (not available for a Class "G" license). While online payment options are also available, submission of documents via mail or at a regional office is still required.

Contact us to locate a regional office, obtain forms, submit an address change, search for a licensee, review current fee schedules, learn about fee waivers and use of substantially similar military training and experience for honorably discharged veterans, file a complaint or report unlicensed activity.



[FreshFromFlorida.com/Divisions-Offices/  
Licensing/Private-Security](http://FreshFromFlorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Licensing/Private-Security)

(850) 245-5691