



PRIVATE INVESTIGATION

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

What Is Private Investigation?

"Private Investigation" means the investigation by a person or persons for the purpose of obtaining information with reference to any of the following matters:

- Crime or wrongs done or threatened against the United States or any state or territory of the United States, when operating under express written authority of the governmental official responsible for authorizing such investigation;
- The identity, habits, conduct, movements, whereabouts, affiliations, associations, transactions, reputation or character of any society, person or group of persons;
- The credibility of witnesses or other persons;
- The whereabouts of missing persons, owners of unclaimed property or escheated property, or heirs to estates;
- The location or recovery of lost or stolen property;
- The causes and origin of, or responsibility for, fires, libels, slanders, losses, accidents, damage, or injuries to real or personal property; and
- The business of securing evidence to be used before investigating committees or boards of award or arbitration or in the trial of civil or criminal cases and the preparation therefor.

To perform private investigations in Florida, an individual must hold a Class "C" Private Investigator license or a Class "CC" Private Investigator Intern license. A Class "C" or "CC" licensee must own or work for a licensed Class "A" Private Investigative Agency. A Class "CC" licensee must work under the direction and control of a designated, sponsoring Class "C" licensee.

License Classifications

- Class "C" Private Investigator
- Class "CC" Private Investigator Intern
- Class "M" Private Investigative and Security Agency Manager
- Class "MA" Private Investigative Agency Manager
- Class "A" Private Investigative Agency
- Class "AA" Private Investigative Agency Branch Office
- Class "AB" Combined Security and Private Investigative Agency Branch Office

Firearms

A private investigator or private investigator intern, age 21 years or older, who possesses a Class "G" Statewide Firearm License may carry a concealed firearm when it is required by his or her duties and approved by the licensed agency. Firearms are not permitted to be carried openly at any time.



Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services

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 or 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 to download or request forms or application instructions.

Training and Experience Requirements

- An applicant for a Class "C" license must submit an affidavit/statement of qualifying experience or training and must pass an examination covering the provisions of Chapter 493, F. S. The examination is not required, however, for applicants who possess a current Class "CC" license or applicants who have held such license, in good standing, within the preceding 12-month period.
- An applicant for a Class "CC" license must complete a 40-hour course in general investigative techniques and Chapter 493, F. S.
- An applicant for a Class "G" Statewide Firearm license must submit a Certificate of Firearms proficiency as proof of successful completion of 28 hours of range and classroom training administered by a licensed Class "K" Firearms Instructor.
- Agency managers must have a minimum of two years of full-time, verifiable 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 "A", "AA", "AB", and "K" licenses are valid for a term of three years. Class "C", "CC", "G", "M", and "MA" 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-Investigation](http://FreshFromFlorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Licensing/Private-Investigation)

(850) 245-5691

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