FAQ's Regarding Fees:

Q: What is the application fee for?
A: The application fee was authorized in the Board's enabling statute to offset the cost of running background checks. This fee will specifically be used to pay ABI for running fingerprints through an ABI and FBI background check required by statute for all licensees.

Q: Is the application fee a one-time fee?
A: Yes, this is a one time fee paid only for initial license and will not be required again of any licensee. This one-time fee will only be submitted with the initial application for licensure.

Q: When is the license fee due?
A: The license fee is due when you are approved for licensure. Some applicants may choose to submit this with their initial application in order to expedite the licensure process and if their application is denied, this fee will be refundable. The license fee is good for a two-year license period.

Q: What are the fees for getting a license?
A: An application and license fee are the fees for getting an initial license. The application fee is only paid one time and the license fee is for a two-year license period. A fee schedule is provided in the Rules and Regulations of the Board (Appendices I, page 20).

Q: How did the Board determine what the fees should be?
A: The Board reviewed the fee schedules of other licensing states and ensured that all fees are authorized in our enabling statute. The Board also researched the number of private investigators in the State and set the lowest fee possible with an expected licensee population in Alabama of 200-500. The Board does not receive any funds from the State General Fund and therefore, has been charged by the legislature to be self-sufficient by collecting only the fees authorized by statute. Any funds received by the Board through these fees can only be utilized for the administration of the licensure program in order to protect the public from harm.

Q: Do I have to pay for a Law/Rule & Regulation Book?
A: No, the statute requires the Board to provide a free Law/Rule and Regulation book to each licensee upon initial licensure and each renewal season. In addition to the printed book, the law and rules and regulations are posted on the Board web site as a free service to all. The Fee Schedule in the Rules and Regulations lists a $50 fee for a Law/Rule and Regulation Book and this is specifically for anyone from the public (a non-licensee) who requests a printed book.

Q: Do Certified Trainers pay more for a license?
A: Certified Trainers will pay the same license fee for private investigator as any applicant or licensee does. The fee for providing certified training is separate and apart from licensure fees.

General FAQ's:

Q: What is the purpose of the Board?
A: Private Investigation services in Alabama has been determined by the Legislature as affecting the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Alabama. Therefore, the Alabama Private Investigation Board was created to regulate the profession to protect the citizenry against unauthorized and unqualified private investigation services and from unprofessional and unethical conduct by persons licensed to provide private investigation services.

Q: What is Grandfathering?
A: New licensure boards typically offer a method of licensing for individuals currently in the profession. Specifically, applicants can use their work experience to qualify for licensure, rather than sit for an examination during the first year of a new licensure board.

Q: How do I qualify for Grandfathering (or license by work experience)?
A: Private Investigators holding a current business license in the state of Alabama on April 11, 2014 (the effective date of the Rules and Regulations of the Board) may apply under the work experience or grandfathering option. Also, those employed for private investigation services by a company holding a current business license in the state of Alabama are eligible. The opportunity to apply for a private investigator license as permitted by the grandfathering provisions will expire on April 11, 2015 (365 days from the implementation of the rules and regulations of the Board).

Q: What is the difference between a state of Alabama business license and a Private Investigator License issued by the Alabama Private Investigation Board?
A: Business licenses issued by the state, county, and/or city are occupational licenses. The license provided by the Alabama Private Investigation Board is a professional license required by the State to provide investigation services in Alabama. Professional licenses are issued and regulated in order to protect the public from harm. A Private Investigator License issued by the Alabama Private Investigation Board establishes that the holder has met the minimum standards required by state law to provide investigation services in Alabama.

Q: What is the difference between the Law and the Rules and Regulations?
A: The Law was passed by the Alabama Legislature and cannot be altered unless a bill is drafted and passed through the Legislature. The Rules and Regulations are drafted by the Board to provide details of any authority given to the Board by statute and the Office of Administrative Procedures is charged with adopting and/or amending the Rules and Regulations as proposed by the Board.

Q: When I am approved for licensure, what will I receive?
A: Each licensee will receive a credit card size license card with their picture, an 8 ½" x 11" wall certificate, and a law/rule and regulation book. All licensees are also posted on the on-line roster and added to the Board's e-mail list to receive licensure news.

Q: What is the deadline date for all Alabama private investigators to be licensed by the Alabama Private Investigation Board (APIB)?
A: May 1, 2014, is the date that anyone practicing private investigation in the State of Alabama must be licensed by the APIB (unless otherwise exempt in statute).