

Alabama Private Investigation Board (APIB) Licensure Update March 19, 2015

Licensing Population – Year One

It has been approximately one year since the APIB started processing applications for licensure. There are currently 304 Licensed Private Investigators in the State of Alabama. This licensee population consists of 259 licenses issued by Grandfathering (or Work Experience) and 45 licenses issued by Credential (or Examination). We expect to see this number rise in the coming months. Specifically, 74 individuals have been approved to sit for the licensure examination and the option to apply under grandfathering remains open until April 11, 2015.

Examination – Year One

The APIB contracts with PSI Services, L.L.C. to administer the licensure examination. This same company and model have been utilized in many other private investigator licensing states. Therefore, we are able to reap the benefit of years of testing experience specifically in the field of private investigation for the purpose of licensing from those states who have gone before us. To date, 86 individuals have taken the APIB Licensure Examination and 45 have passed. The examination consists of the APIB Law/Rules and Regulations and private investigator practice questions. Examination Candidates have an opportunity to complete a survey from PSI regarding test content, test location, computer testing system, registration and scheduling, convenience, test center staff, and style of items (were the items clearly written, direct, or unambiguous) The APIB will review this examination including the examination candidate survey and statistics each year to ensure quality licensure examinations for the protection of the public.

Board Establishment – Year One

The first year of a newly created consumer protection agency is probably the most crucial and challenging time of its development. The APIB has worked to establish the following since the passage of the enabling act:

- ✓ Board Members Appointed
- ✓ Establish Board Office and Staff (Administrative Services Competitively Bid)
- ✓ Launch Board Web Site
- ✓ Write Rules and Regulations (including advertisement and invitation of public comments)
- ✓ Set up Agreement with ABI (to conduct Back Ground Checks)
- ✓ Create Application for Licensure Forms
- ✓ Launch Grandfathering Period
- ✓ Issue First Licenses (Including creating the License Certificates and Cards; and posting an on-line Roster of Licensees)
- ✓ Create Complaint Forms
- ✓ Create Continuing Education Forms
- ✓ Develop an Examination for Licensure
- ✓ Fund the Licensure Program through Application Fees
- ✓ Investigate Consumer Complaints

Looking Ahead

As we begin our sophomore year, the APIB has many more goals to accomplish specific to the building of our foundation. The completion of this base will include Training Programs, Disciplinary Actions, and Reciprocity. In addition, we will begin preparations now for the 2016 Licensure Renewal that will include the development of an on-line renewal process and education of licensees regarding Continuing Education. This renewal will mark a complete licensure cycle where we will have come full circle. The APIB will continue to review all aspects of the licensure program to ensure we are providing consumer protection as mandated by our legislature, but also to provide quality service to licensees through all licensure processes. We invite our licensees to share with our office any suggestions for these purposes.