



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
**CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner**  
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800

**Please Respond to:**  
Division of Licensing  
Post Office Box 6687  
Tallahassee, FL 32314-6687  
PH (850) 245-5500 • Fax (850) 245-5505

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

DATE: July 6, 2007

TO: Class "A" Private Investigative Agencies

FROM: W. H. ~~"Buddy" Bevis~~, Director, Division of Licensing

SUBJECT: Changes in Requirements for Licensure as a Private Investigator and Private Investigator Intern

I want to inform you of some significant changes in the eligibility requirements for various individual licenses in the private investigative field. These changes are the result of a bill passed by the Florida Legislature during the 2007 session.

Effective January 1, 2008, a person applying for a Class "MA", a Class "M", or a Class "C" license must pass an examination that covers the provisions of Chapter 493. The applicant will be required to pass the examination before applying for licensure and must submit proof of having successfully taken the examination with the application.

These changes are set forth in Section 493.6203(5), Florida Statutes. This section includes the following important provisions as well:

- A person who already holds a valid Class "CC", "C", "MA", or "M" license on or before December 31, 2007, does not have to take an examination.
- However, if a Class "CC", "C", "MA", or "M" license becomes invalid and remains invalid for more than one year, the person applying for re-licensure must take and pass the examination.
- The fee for the exam may not exceed \$100.

Effective September 1, 2008, a person applying for the Class "CC" license will have to complete at least 24 hours of a 40-hour course and pass an initial examination prior to submitting the application to the Division. The applicant must submit documentation confirming that he has completed the 24-hour course and passed the examination with the application for licensure. Proof of having completed the remaining 16 hours and of



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having passed a second examination must be submitted within 180 days. The content of the 40-hour course and the two examinations will consist of material related to general investigative techniques and the provisions of Chapter 493.

These provisions were added as part of Section 493.6203(6), Florida Statutes. Note the following important provisions included here:

- The examination and course requirement will apply to all applications that are PENDING as of the date on which the law takes effect. In other words, if our Division received an application for a Class "CC" license but has yet to issue the license by September 1, 2008, the applicant will be required to submit proof of 40 hours' training and will have to pass the examination within 180 days of that date (February 28, 2009).
- The 40-hour training course can be administered in a classroom, via on-line technology, or with a home-study course in accordance with rules and procedures established by the Florida Department of Education.
- If the applicant (who applies after September 1, 2008) fails to submit proof of having completed the remaining 16-hour training course and having passed the examination within the 180 days of submitting their application, the Class "CC" license will automatically be suspended or, if the license has not yet been issued, the applicant's authority to work will be rescinded until the Division receives such proof.
- If a Class "CC" license becomes invalid and remains invalid for more than one year, the person applying for re-licensure must retake both the training and the examination.

These new regulations will require the development of a curriculum, the creation of examinations, and the formulation of policies regarding the proctoring of examinations. The Division of Licensing will be soliciting your input regarding the details of the content of the curriculum. We will keep you apprised with Important Notices and with web page updates of the progress as we approach the implementation date of these new requirements. In the meantime, if you have any questions about these new regulations, please call one of the service representatives in our Public Inquiry Section at 850-245-5691 or telephone the Regional Office nearest you.

WHB/kw