



**South Carolina  
Law Enforcement Division**

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**NEW PRIVATE INVESTIGATION BUSINESS LICENSE**

The following are required in order to be considered for a business license. Failure to submit the below listed items or meet the listed criteria will result in your application being returned and/or denied. Application forms are available on the SLED website ([www.sled.sc.gov](http://www.sled.sc.gov)). Once all required forms are received, SLED will conduct a background investigation on the applicant in accordance with § 40-18-70(C) of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

- A **non-refundable** \$350.00 annual license fee paid via cashier's check, money order, or company check made payable to SLED. Payment made in the incorrect amount will be returned. No additional fee is required for the licensee's private investigation registration.
- A completed, signed, and notarized application. If military service is indicated on the application, please submit a copy of the DD Form 214.
- Two (2) complete sets of fingerprint cards.
- A recent digital photograph submitted in accordance with SLED Regulatory Services credentialing requirements (instructions available on the SLED website).
- In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 40-18-70(B), the applicant must post a \$10,000 bond with SLED, on an approved form, in favor of the State by a surety company licensed to transact surety insurance business in this State (approved form and sample available on the SLED website).
- A completed, signed, and notarized Judgment Statement Affidavit. The applicant may submit a certified statement by the Clerk of Court in the applicant's county of residence in lieu of the affidavit.
- A completed, signed, and notarized Form PD/PS-9. If the company is not incorporated, the applicant for licensing must have a financial interest in the company. A corporate head of an incorporated business who does not wish to apply for a license may designate, in writing, a corporate official to complete the license application.

- A completed Disclosure of Principal(s) form.
- Applicants must submit a sample contract for approval in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 40-18-70(F).
- In order to qualify as a private investigation business licensee, the applicant must have three years' experience:
  - As a private investigator employed by a licensed private investigation agency;
  - As an investigator for a law firm, a government agency, a private corporation, a nonprofit organization, or in a capacity that SLED determines has provided the requisite investigative experience; or
  - As a sworn officer with a federal, state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency.

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