

WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §30-18-2

§30-18-2. Eligibility requirements for license to conduct the private investigation business.

(a) In order to be eligible for any license to conduct the private investigation business, an applicant shall:

- (1) Be at least 18 years of age;
- (2) Be a citizen of the United States or an alien who is legally residing within the United States;
- (3) Not have had any previous license to conduct a private investigation business or to conduct a security guard business revoked or any application for any such licenses or registrations denied by the appropriate governmental authority in this or any other state or territory;
- (4) Not have been declared incompetent by reason of mental defect or disease by any court of competent jurisdiction unless a court has subsequently determined that the applicant's competency has been restored;
- (5) Not suffer from habitual drunkenness or from narcotics addiction or dependence;
- (6) Be of good moral character;
- (7) Have a minimum of one year of experience, education, or training in any one of the following areas, or some combination thereof:
 - (A) Course work that is relevant to the private investigation business at an accredited college or university;
 - (B) Employment as a member of any United States government investigative agency, employment as a member of a state or local law-enforcement agency, or service as a sheriff;
 - (C) Employment by a licensed private investigative or detective agency for the purpose of conducting the private investigation business;
 - (D) Service as a magistrate in this state; or
 - (E) Any other substantially equivalent training or experience; or
 - (F) Military service.
- (8) Not have been convicted of a felony in this state or any other state or territory;

(9) Not have been convicted of any of the following:

- (A) Illegally using, carrying, or possessing a pistol or other dangerous weapon;
- (B) Making or possessing burglar's instruments;
- (C) Buying or receiving stolen property;
- (D) Entering a building unlawfully;
- (E) Aiding an inmate's escape from prison;
- (F) Possessing or distributing illicit drugs;
- (G) Any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or for which dishonesty of character is a necessary element; and

(10) Not have violated any provision of §30-18-8 of this code.

The provisions of this section shall not prevent the issuance of a license to any person who, subsequent to his or her conviction, shall have received an executive pardon therefor, removing this disability.

- (b) Any person who qualifies for a private investigator's license shall also be qualified to conduct security guard business upon notifying the Secretary of State in writing that the person will be conducting such business.
- (c) No person may be employed as a licensed private investigator while serving as magistrate.