



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
POST OFFICE BOX 7068
WEST TRENTON NJ 08628-0068
(609) 882-2000

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

ZULIMA V. FARBER
Attorney General

COLONEL JOSEPH R. FUENTES
Superintendent

May 31, 2006

TO: ALL NEW JERSEY LICENSED PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCIES:

This correspondence will serve as notification to the private detective and security industries regarding N.J.S.A. 45:19A-1 to 45:19A-12, the "Security Officer Registration Act" (SORA). As you are aware, SORA was enacted on August 31, 2004, and further established a deadline of March 2006 for industry compliance. The corresponding Regulations, N.J.A.C. 13:55A1.1 to 13:55-8.3 were delayed for several months until their adoption on May 1, 2006. As a result, the separation of the security industry from the Private Detective Act of 1939, to the Security Officer Registration Act (SORA) has not corresponded to the effective date.

The most significant changes regarding SORA and the associated regulations are the requirements that all security officers (guards) attend a twenty-four hour education and training course. These individuals will be taught by certified security officer instructors. The instructors will attend a forty-hour train the trainer program developed by the New Jersey State Police. Additionally, the legislation and regulations clearly define the duties and roles of police officers, working under the color of law, while receiving compensation from private employers. In essence, any law enforcement officer performing the duties of a security officer must be directly compensated by his or her department or become a registered security officer of a duly licensed security company.

The implementation of SORA will enable current and prospective security personnel to complete license and registration applications via a web-based system, and submit requisite payments online through newly developed Information Technology Systems. These procedures will replace the current paper-based system and allow for real-time information and verification of security personnel. Currently, these electronic systems are nearing completion and awaiting final testing. Upon approval, the Private Detective Unit will begin accepting electronic applications and E-commerce payments for security instructors, security officers, and security agencies.



The Private Detective Unit continues to enforce the Private Detective Act of 1939, and its corresponding regulations. Furthermore, I am optimistic that a smooth transition to SORA can be accomplished by January 1, 2007, at which time full industry compliance will be required.

For your convenience, you can access our <http://njsp.org/about/private-detective.html> for a posting of SORA legislation, applicable regulations, updates, changes, instructions, and frequently asked questions. You may also contact the Private Detective Unit, at (609) 584-5051 ext.5608. Additional information and instructions will be made available as the SORA e-licensing program progresses.

Thank you for your cooperation.

FOR COLONEL JOSEPH R. FUENTES
SUPERINTENDENT

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Major James Fallon #3628". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'M'.

Major James Fallon #3628
Commanding Officer
Special Investigations Section