



Texas Department of Public Safety

Information for the News Media
Public Information Office
(512) 424-2080

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Make sure private security providers are licensed by DPS

Private security providers, such as armed and unarmed security guards; alarm companies; residential and public video security companies; armored cars and armored car couriers; private investigators; body guards; locksmiths; and electronic access control device installers; as well as the companies that employ these individuals, are required to have licenses from the Texas Department of Public Safety.

However, many individuals and companies are performing services without the required license and criminal history check.

The Department recommends that before you hire any person or company in the industry, you ensure he or she or the company is licensed. You should also check our website using the search feature at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/psb> to verify an individual or company's licensed status.

DPS has 27 troopers who investigate violations of the Private Security Act located throughout the state. Among the violations they investigate are allegations of individuals or companies performing security services without a license, which is a class A misdemeanor, punishable by a jail term up to 1 year and/or a fine of up to \$4,000.

If you encounter an unlicensed individual or company offering to perform security-related services, please contact the Department's Private Security Bureau by mail (PO Box 4087, Austin, TX 78773-0241), by fax (512-424-7729) or by e-mail (psb@txdps.state.tx.us).

(Background: The Private Security Bureau was created in 1969 as the Texas Board of Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies. In 1998, the Agency was renamed the Texas Commission on Private Security. The Commission became associated with the Texas Department of Public Safety in September 2003, and the Commission was abolished and reestablished as the Department's Private Security Bureau in February 2004.)

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