

**Private Investigation and Security Agencies Act
(CHAPTER 249)**

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PRIVATE INVESTIGATION AND SECURITY AGENCIES ACT

(CHAPTER 249)

(Original Enactment: Act 32 of 1973)

An Act to provide for the licensing and control of those persons who carry on the business of or act as private investigators or carry on the business of a security guard agency and for purposes connected therewith.

[1st December 1973]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Private Investigation and Security Agencies Act.

Interpretation

- 2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“company” means —

- (a) a company incorporated pursuant to the Companies Act [Cap. 50] or pursuant to any corresponding previous law; or
- (b) a company or other body incorporated outside Singapore;

“licence” means a private investigator’s licence or a security guard agency’s licence, as the case may be, granted under this Act;

“licensee” means the holder of a licence;

“licensing officer” means the licensing officer appointed under section 4 and includes an assistant licensing officer appointed under that section;

“private investigator” means any person (whether or not he carries on any other business) who exercises or carries on or advertises or notifies or states that he exercises or carries on or that he is willing to exercise or carry on or in any way holds himself to the public as ready to undertake any of the following functions:

- (a) obtaining and furnishing information as to the personal character or actions of any person or as to the character or nature of the business or occupation of any person;
- (b) searching for missing persons;
- (c) obtaining and furnishing information as to the causes and origin of or responsibility for fires, libels, losses, accidents or damages or injuries to real or personal property;

(d) the location or recovery of lost or stolen property or obtaining information with respect to that property;

(e) securing evidence to be used in civil or criminal proceedings, on behalf of any other person and for or in consideration of any payment or other remuneration (whether monetary or otherwise);

“private investigator’s licence” means a licence granted under this Act authorising the holder to carry on the business of or to act as a private investigator;

“security guard” includes any watchman or other person engaged in work for the protection of persons or property or to prevent the theft or the unlawful taking of property;

“security guard agency’s licence” means a licence granted under this Act authorising the holder to carry on the business of a security guard agency.

(2) The fact that any person carries on the business of obtaining or furnishing information as to the financial rating or standing of any person shall not of itself require the person carrying on that business or any employee or agent of that person to hold a private investigator’s licence.

(3) For the purposes of this Act, a person shall be deemed to be carrying on the business of a security guard agency if he furnishes or advertises or notifies or states that he is willing to furnish or in any way holds himself out to the public as ready to furnish security guards for the protection of persons or property or to prevent the theft or the unlawful taking of property for or in consideration of any payment or other remuneration (whether monetary or otherwise).

Act not applicable to certain persons

3.—(1) This Act shall not be construed as requiring —

- (a) any member of the Singapore Police Force in the exercise of his functions as a police officer;
- (b) any member of the Singapore Armed Forces in the exercise of his functions as such member;
- (c) any officer or employee of the Government in the exercise of his functions as such officer or employee; and
- (d) any Auxiliary Police Force created under the provisions of the Police Force Act [Cap. 235] or any officer or employee thereof in the exercise of his functions as such officer or employee,

to hold a licence.

(2) This Act shall not be construed as requiring —

- (a) any solicitor acting in the ordinary course of his profession or any solicitor's clerk in the ordinary course of his employer's profession;
- (b) any person bona fide carrying on the business of insurance or of an insurance adjustment agency or any employee or agent of such a person in the exercise of his functions as such employee or agent;
- (c) any person employed to do any investigation work for one employer (such employer not being a private investigator) in respect of investigation work done for that employer arising out of the functions or business exercised or carried on by that employer; or
- (d) any person who is employed by the holder of a private investigator's licence to assist the latter in his business as a private investigator,

to hold a private investigator's licence.

(3) This Act shall not be construed as requiring any inspector, guard, watchman, or other person employed to do inspecting, guarding or watching work for one employer only in respect of inspecting, guarding or watching work done for that employer for the protection of persons or property or arising out of the functions or business exercised or carried on by that employer to hold a security guard agency's licence.

Appointment of licensing officer

4.—(1) The Minister may appoint a public officer by name or office to be the licensing officer and may also appoint from public officers such number of assistant licensing officers as he may consider necessary for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The licensing officer shall be responsible generally for carrying out the provisions of this Act and for the collection of fees thereunder and shall pay all amounts collected in respect thereof into the Consolidated Fund.

No person to act as private investigator without a licence

5.—(1) No person shall —

- (a) exercise or carry on or advertise, notify or state that he exercises or carries on or is willing to exercise or carry on the business of a private investigator;
- (b) act as a private investigator; or
- (c) in any way hold himself out to the public as ready to undertake for