



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • John Born, Director
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John R. Kasich, Governor

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Ohio Department of Public Safety Cautioning Pharmacies Against Contracting with Unlicensed Security Guards

COLUMBUS - Amid a string of recent robberies in the Cincinnati area, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is cautioning pharmacies against contracting with unlicensed security guards.

ODPS visited pharmacies in Hamilton and Middletown, providing information, answering questions, and explaining the importance of contracting only with licensed security providers.

To qualify for a license, a security guard company must be insured, submit criminal background checks for employees, and designate a qualifying agent with professional experience. Carrying a firearm on duty requires additional training, background checks and credentials. It's against the law for a security guard provider to operate in Ohio without a license.

"In the security guard business, 'unlicensed' means uninsured, unqualified and unwilling to submit to a criminal background check," said Geoff Dutton, executive director of Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS), the section of ODPS that licenses security providers. "It's important for businesses to verify that their contract security providers are licensed and the guards not carrying a firearm without proper credentials."

PISGS can help pharmacies or any other businesses or organizations verify that a security guard provider is licensed and its employees properly registered. A searchable directory of Ohio's more than 800 licensed companies is available online:

<https://ext.dps.state.oh.us/PISGS/Pages/Public/providersearch.aspx>

A PISGS brochure offers tips for selecting a security provider: <http://www.pisgs.ohio.gov/pisgs.stm>.

Also, anyone can text PISGS questions or the location of a security guard and PISGS will verify the guard's credentials: (614) 705-2TIP (2847).

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