The Observer

PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR SECURITY GUARD SERVICES NEWSLETTER

October 2017

PISGS Launches First-Ever Online Training

After many months of working together with the Ohio Private Investigator and Security Services Commission (OPISSC), PISGS completed and launched its first-ever online training course. This course: Role of a Security Guard and Private Investigator outlines the roles, duties and responsibilities of security guards and PIs under the laws of Ohio. This training module is the first in a series of modules to be created and released in the upcoming months. When complete, the series will include 8 total training modules, providing security guards and private investigators across the state with 8 hours of online training. Future course topics include: Access Control, Legal Powers & Limitations and Ethics and Conduct, among others. The training is free and can be accessed on the PISGS website under "Training Opportunities"."

Here's what people are saying about the training:

"It was great training. We look forward to using it for our security staff! It was very relevant to the tasks we perform on a daily basis."

"I took the course to evaluate it as an additional component in our security officer training program. The content and the way it is presented is outstanding, it covered many of the daily tasks and requirements of a security officer and investigator. The length of the session is perfect, I was anxious to move along and it kept me engaged. I feel our existing and new hire security team members will benefit greatly in taking this online training, I am adding it to our curriculum. I look forward to more online training topics, thank you!"

"I really liked the online course and it was very well put together and easy to follow. I think companies may need to implement this in their orientation process, it would be a great tool."

"Wow. Great! it was informative. it was clear."

For more information on the training, click HERE!

In this issue

Guest Blog

Did you know?

Safer Ohio Standout

GUEST BLOG

By Joe Savarise

Executive Director, Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association

Hotel Security Issues in Spotlight After Las Vegas

In the aftermath of the Las Vegas Route 91 Festival shooting, hotel policies for security are increasingly under the spotlight. While such an occurrence could occur not just in hotels, but in any type of building which provides a similar vantage point, the fact is that hotel guests, the media and others will be looking to hotel operators to see what steps they are taking to protect guests and keep their properties safe. Increased use of trained, qualified and properly accredited private security personnel can be an important part of those efforts.

Licensees working details at hotel and lodging properties should know that in Ohio, operators of those businesses have specific rights regarding the removal of unwanted guests. Hotel properties also have varying policies regarding the possession of firearms, although it should be noted that hotels have the right to ban both concealed carry and any type of firearm on their premises.

Security personnel can assist hotels in removing individuals from the property. Guests engaged in activity prohibited by hotel policy sometimes wrongly assert that their room becomes their legal residence or domicile. This is not true. Transient hotel guests (stays of less than 30 days) are "invitees," and their right to privacy and quiet enjoyment of their room ends as soon as they are asked or informed to leave the property. A hotel or lodging establishment is within its rights to ask a guest to leave if they violate hotel policy, including possession of prohibited items, if causing a disturbance, if they overstay their reservation, or if they are breaking the law. Note that guests at extended stay properties (more than 30 days) may have somewhat stronger residency rights than transient guests.

Security personnel can also be called upon to enforce hotel policies regarding weapons. Ohio Revised Code 2923.126(C)(3)(a) allows a private property owner to prohibit both concealed weapons and firearms on its premises. This ability is optional, and hotels are not required to ban weapons. It is a matter of policy. Licensees should verify the policy at any hotel to which they are detailed. They should also be careful to make sure that enforcement of any weapon ban policy is applied uniformly to all guests.

The right to bear arms asserted by some gun-owners does not extend into a private business. Hotel and lodging operations, like all other businesses banning weapons, must post a sign prohibiting persons from carrying firearms or concealed firearms onto the property in a conspicuous location. Many hotels which choose to ban weapons post such a notice as a decal sign on entrance doors. Hotels can also implement policies to ban explosives, and toxic or dangerous chemicals which pose a risk to guests and to public safety.

Hotels and licensed private security services have had a strong and beneficial relationship throughout the years. Recent events do not fundamentally alter the need for safety within the hotels, but there will no doubt be an opportunity for even more cooperation and business within this industry. You can contact the Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association (joe@ohla.org) with any question regarding lodging operations.

SAFER OHIO STANDOUT

Congratulations to Safer Ohio Standout, Jeffrey S. Palestrant with Highland Security & Investigations LLC.

Palestrant is to be recognized for going above and beyond his call of duty while on routine patrol at a hotel. He found an unresponsive male and administered CPR until police and EMS arrived on scene. His actions were a key factor in saving the life of this man. He was credited by the local police and fire officials for his professionalism and ability to think and act clearly in this critical situation.

Send Safer Ohio Standout submissions to PISGStips@dps.ohio.gov along with a photo and a short description of what makes the employee a "Safer Ohio Standout."

Did you know?

So far in 2017, 91 licensees and associates have voluntarily attended the PISGS Informational Seminar.

Here's what they are saying about it:

"Great presentation and very important information for the industry."

"Very efficient. All my questions were answered."

"I should have attended sooner!"

There are still dates left for the year: November 16 and December 14

Contact Tiffany to register: tcgehrlich@dps.ohio.gov or 614-813-3244

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