# Rules of Boards of Police Commissioners

## Division 20—St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners

### Chapter 4—Rules for Private Watchmen

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Title 17—BOARDS OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Division 20—St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners
Chapter 4—Rules for Private Watchmen

17 CSR 20-4.015 Administration and Command of the Private Security Section

PURPOSE: Under section 84.340, RSMo, the St. Louis, Missouri Board of Police Commissioners has the authority to regulate and license all private security personnel, serving or acting as such, in St. Louis. These rules establish procedures, training, requirements and license fees for those persons so employed in the security field.

(1) Board of Police Commissioners. The St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners (also referred to as the board) is established by state statute and consists of five (5) members, four (4) of whom are appointed by the governor. The mayor of the City of St. Louis serves ex officio. The board has sole charge and control of the metropolitan police department of the City of St. Louis and of the licensing, regulation and discipline of all private security officers, private watchmen and couriers in the City of St. Louis. Private detectives are licensed by the license collector’s office of the City of St. Louis, not by the board of police commissioners. The board relegated that responsibility to the city license collector’s office.

(2) Private Security Section. The private security section is responsible for the interviewing, investigating, processing, licensing, inspecting and supervising of all persons working or acting as licensed private watchmen or any other variety of titles in the City of St. Louis. The private security section is further responsible for issuing and transferring all such licenses, for reinstatements, for periodic inspection of license holders, for liaison with all suppliers of security personnel in the city, for maintenance of a personnel file on all applicants in the City of St. Louis and for publishing, within the department, information of all terminations of employment of security personnel. The private security section also conducts background investigations on private detective/investigator applicants as requested by the license collector’s office. The decision to issue a license is made by the license collector’s office.

(3) Private Security Personnel. The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department private security program has three (3) distinct classifications of personnel. A definition of each classification is listed as follows:

(A) Private security officer. A person employed with certain police powers (as defined in 17 CSR 20-4.065) to protect life or property on or in designated premises. The private security officer’s powers exist only within the established property owned or leased by the contracting employer and to incidents occurring on the premises. The private security officer may carry a firearm providing this individual is qualified (as defined in 17 CSR 20-4.055). Authorization to carry a firearm is designated on the badge/identification (ID) card. The private security officer, whether armed or unarmed, may carry a slapper, baton, nightstick, aerosol tear gas and handcuffs;

(B) Courier. A person employed to carry out the assignment of protecting and transporting property from one (1) designated area to another. The person shall be in an approved military style uniform. The courier has no power of arrest. The private courier may carry a firearm provided this individual is qualified (as defined in 17 CSR 20-4.055), which is designated on the badge/ID card; and

(C) Private watchman. A person employed without police powers and without authorization to carry weapons or protective devices. This individual will perform the tasks of observation and reporting on or in a licensed premises or designated area. This may include patrolling the public street. The private watchman has a distinctive grey, military uniform. The private watchman has no power of arrest. Note: Only the private security officer and private courier classifications will be permitted to hold two (2) licenses. Each classification is licensed separately and functions as a distinct entity. (This licensing does not include the private watchmen classification.)


*Original authority: 84.340, RSMo 1939.

17 CSR 20-4.035 Licensing

PURPOSE: Under section 84.340, RSMo, the St. Louis, Missouri Board of Police Commissioners has the authority to regulate and license all private security personnel, serving or acting as such, in St. Louis. These rules establish procedures, training requirements and license fees for those persons so employed in this industry.

(1) General Procedures. Each applicant must appear in person at the office of the private security section. Each applicant must complete an application form. S/he must provide all information requested in the application for a determination of his/her qualifications to hold a license as a private watchman. Each applicant must present a current letter (no older than ten (10) days) from the intended employer, where the proposed employer states an intention to hire the applicant. Prior
to an application being processed by the private security section, a criminal history inquiry will be made through the St. Louis Police Department’s computer terminal. If the inquiry reveals that the applicant has an open criminal arrest record, s/he will be required to obtain a certified final court disposition or a report from a circuit or prosecuting attorney. If the case is still open, the application process will not be completed until a final disposition is obtained.

(2) Standards. Each applicant for a license to work as a private watchman in the City of St. Louis shall meet the standards set by the board of police commissioners, which require that an applicant—

(A) Be a citizen of the United States or legal resident-alien permitted to work in this country;
(B) Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
(C) Be able to read, write and understand the English language;
(D) Meet physical and mental standards established by the board of police commissioners;
(E) Be capable of understanding and performing the duties and responsibilities of a licensed private watchman within the scope of departmental policies and procedures;
(F) Who has served time on active or reserve duty in any of the Armed Forces of the United States must be in possession of an Honorable Discharge or a General Discharge Under Honorable Conditions. An Un honorable Discharge, a Discharge Under Dishonorable Conditions or a Discharge Other Than Honorable Conditions will disqualify the applicant;
(G) Be of good moral character;
(H) Have no felony convictions;
(I) Be able to pass a character investigation by this department;
(J) Satisfactorily complete the training program prescribed by the board of police commissioners;
(K) Never have had a security license revoked by another jurisdiction for a criminal law conviction;
(L) Not withhold any information which would determine fitness relevant to being licensed as a security officer; and
(M) Be free of any type of chemical dependency.

(3) Issuance/Denial of License. When an applicant has successfully completed the requirements set by the board of police commissioners, the board will issue a license. An applicant may be denied a license for any of the following reasons:

(A) Failure to meet the standards in section (2);
(B) Falsifying information on any of the forms provided by the private security section to establish eligibility. Applicants who falsify those documents shall be ineligible to receive a private watchman’s license and cannot re-apply for at least six (6) months from the date the false information was submitted;
(C) Failure to provide whatever additional information is deemed necessary in order to establish eligibility;
(D) The references or employment background records, or both, indicate a poor or unsatisfactory character or work record;
(E) Any facts or actions which make the applicant unsuitable or ineligible for licensing; and
(F) Resigned under investigation, resigned under charges or was discharged from the police force of the City of St. Louis.

(4) Notification of License Denial. Applicants and their employers, in event of license denial, will be given a written notification. Specific reasons will be given to an applicant who appears in person at the office of the private security section. Applicants may appeal, in writing, to the board of police commissioners within thirty (30) days of denial notification. The appeal should contain a brief rebuttal of the reasons for denial. The board of police commissioners will then notify the applicant, in writing, of its final decision in the matter.

(5) Temporary License. If an applicant appears to meet the standards for licensing, the commander of the private security section may issue a temporary license. This permits the applicant to work until a formal license is issued by the board.

(A) A holder of a temporary badge/identification (ID) card must wear the card at the breast of the outermost garment while on duty and must be attired in an approved uniform;
(B) A holder of a temporary license who transfers employment to another agency must return his/her temporary badge/ID card to the private security section for issuance of a new badge/ID card; and
(C) A holder of a temporary license must return the temporary badge/ID card to the private security section at the time the formal license is issued.

(6) Secondary Employment License. A second license may be approved by the board of police commissioners and issued by the private security section to a private watchman who—

(A) Works for a private entity (employer) and wants to take a second job working for a second private entity (employer); or
(B) Is licensed to a security agency and desires also to work in a secondary job for a private employer.

1. A second license will not be issued to allow a private watchman to work at two (2) security agencies.
2. A private watchman desiring a second license must present a letter of permission from the first (primary) employer and a letter of intent to hire from the (secondary) employer; and

(C) A St. Louis Police Department computer inquiry will be made on each private watchman applying for a secondary license. If this inquiry reveals an open arrest record within the previous year, s/he will be required to obtain a certified copy of the final court disposition or a report from the circuit or prosecuting attorney. If the case is still open, the secondary license process will not be completed until final disposition is obtained.

(7) License Renewals. A private watchman’s license is valid for one (1) year from date of issue and it must be renewed in the month it expires.

(A) A St. Louis Police Department computer inquiry will be made on each private watchman renewing his/her license. If this inquiry reveals an open arrest record within the previous year, s/he will be required to obtain a certified copy of the final court disposition or a report from the circuit or prosecuting attorney. If the case is still open, the renewal process will not be completed until final disposition is obtained.

(B) A private watchman wishing to renew his/her license must report to the private security section in the month the license expires, bringing—

1. The license which is about to expire;
2. A letter from his/her employer requesting renewal;
3. Badge/ID card; and
4. The fee for the renewal.

(C) A license not renewed during the month it was issued automatically expires unless the holder has applied to the commander of the private security section and received an extension of time.

(8) License Transfer. A license holder may work only for the company, agency or business entity named on the license. A license holder who changes employers must make sure that the new employer is named on the license. In order to transfer a license from...
one (1) employer to another, the license holder must appear in person at the private security section and—

(A) Bring a current dated letter (no more than ten (10) days prior to application) from the new employer, addressed to the board of police commissioners, outlining the duties of the new job and requesting the transfer of license;

(B) Bring in the license and badge/ID card;

(C) Pay the fee established for processing transfers;

(D) The license holder will receive a new badge/ID card and license to the new company;

(E) A St. Louis Police Department computer inquiry will be made on each private watchman transferring his/her license. If this inquiry reveals an open arrest record within the previous year, s/he will be required to obtain a certified copy of the final court disposition or a report from a circuit or prosecuting attorney. If the case is still open, the transfer process will not be completed until final disposition is obtained.

(9) License Reinstatements. A licensed private watchman who resigns may apply for reinstatement of his/her license under the following requirements and procedures:

(A) Application must be made within three (3) months of the resignation date;

(B) The applicant must have resigned while his/her license was in good standing;

(C) The applicant must appear at the private security section with a currently dated letter from an employer requesting reinstatement;

(D) The applicant should pay the fee established for processing license reinstatements; and

(E) A St. Louis Police Department’s computer inquiry will be made on each private watchman reinstating his/her license. If this inquiry reveals an open arrest record within the previous year, s/he will be required to obtain a certified copy of the final court disposition or a report from a circuit or prosecuting attorney. If the case is still open, the reinstatement process will not be completed until final disposition is obtained.

17 CSR 20-4.045 Personnel Records and Fees

PURPOSE: This rule indicates which records must be maintained for licensed private watchman and the establishment of fees.

(1) Personnel Records. The private security section will maintain the personal records of each license holder. This record and all information pertaining to the individual shall be the property of the private security section. Applicants and license holders are personally responsible for immediately notifying the private security section of any change in name, address, telephone number or employer.

(2) Fees. The board of police commissioners will establish, from time-to-time, a set of fees for various services provided by the private security section. The schedule of fees is posted in the private security section office. Fees are not returnable, except on the day they are paid.

*Original authority: 84.340, RSMo 1939.

17 CSR 20-4.055 Training

PURPOSE: Candidates for licensing are required to attend training classes. Applicants who have been approved for licensing by the board of police commissioners are required to attend and complete a program of basic training.

(1) Exemptions. Applicants with prior law enforcement experience or accepted training shall be exempt from the training program.

(2) Length and Content. The training period consists of four (4) hours. Classroom activities consists of selected police subjects and departmental regulations.

(3) Absences. Candidates for licensing who remain away unexcused from any class sessions shall be disqualified or required to arrange attendance at a future class.

(4) Training Fee. A nonrefundable training fee established by the board of police commissioners must be paid before an applicant is enrolled in a training session.

(5) Oath. Prior to issuance of his/her license, the applicant must swear to uphold the following:

I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR that I am a citizen of the United States, or legal resident alien; that I will faithfully support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution and Laws of the State of Missouri, and the Charter and City Ordinances of the City of St. Louis; that I have never been discharged from the police force of the City of St. Louis; that I have never been convicted of a felony; that I have no physical or mental disability or habit that disqualifies me from performing the duties of a Private Watchman; that I will wear such dress, badge/ID card or emblem as the Board of Police Commissioners from time-to-time may designate; that I will, to the best of my skill and ability, diligently and faithfully, without partiality or prejudice, discharge my duties according to the Constitution and Laws of the State of Missouri and Charter and Ordinances of the City of St. Louis; that I will strictly obey all lawful orders and regulations of the Board of Police Commissioners of the City of St. Louis, the Chief of Police, or any officer placed by them over me; that I will not cease to perform my duties until my resignation is accepted by the Board of Police Commissioners; that I will not become a member of, or affiliate myself with, any organization of any kind or character whatsoever, membership which will or may impose upon me obligations inconsistent with the full performance of my duties as a Private Watchman, or inconsistent with the oath herein taken to carry out the orders of the Board of Police Commissioners and to comply with its lawful orders, rules and regulations, or which will or may, in any degree interfere with the performance of my duties as a licensed Security Officer.

*Original authority: 84.340, RSMo 1939.

17 CSR 30-4.065 Authority

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the powers granted to a private watchman.

(1) A private watchman is a uniformed person employed without police powers and authorized to perform the tasks of observation and reporting on/in licensed premises or a designated area, which may include patrolling public streets. A private watchman carries no weapon or protective device.

*Original authority: 84.340, RSMo 1939.
17 CSR 20-4.075 Duties

PURPOSE: Private watchmen are expected to perform certain duties. They have responsibilities to their employers as well as the citizens of St. Louis. The private watchman also has the duty to assist and cooperate with the St. Louis police officers.

(1) Duties. It is the duty of every licensed private watchman to—
   (A) Observe and obey these regulations and to obey all lawful orders of any commissioned St. Louis police officer in matters involving the need for police services;
   (B) Assist St. Louis police officers in preserving the peace when requested; and
   (C) Cooperate with St. Louis police officers in the performance of their duties.

1. Participation by private watchmen, on or off duty, in police action where police officers are on the scene shall be limited to identifying themselves to the officer(s) and offering assistance.

2. In any situation where police are present, the judgment of the officer(s) shall prevail. They are responsible for the proper handling and reporting of the incident in accordance with departmental policies.

3. Failure to cooperate with a St. Louis police officer may be cause for disciplinary action against a licensed private watchman.

4. Failure to assist a law enforcement agency or to aid in prosecution of a crime may be cause for disciplinary action against a licensed private watchman.

AUTHORITY: section 84.340, RSMo 1986.*
Original rule filed April 8, 1988, effective July 1, 1988.

*Original authority: 84.340, RSMo 1939.

17 CSR 20-4.095 Equipment

PURPOSE: The St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners issues equipment to the licensed private watchman. This equipment remains the property of the police department and the private watchman is responsible for its maintenance and care.

(1) Equipment Issue. At the conclusion of the training period and upon final approval by the board of police commissioners, each private watchman shall receive from the private security section one (1) badge/identification (ID) card, one (1) license and one (1) private watchman’s manual. These items are and remain departmental property. They must be returned to the private security section by any private watchman who resigns, is suspended or has his/her license revoked.

(2) Equipment Responsibility. Each licensee deposits a fee for the department-issued badge/ID card and license. The fee is refundable to any private watchman when his/her period of service ends, provided that the license is not revoked. During employment it is the responsibility of the private watchman to care for and safeguard this departmental property.

(A) After the cost has been determined, all issued items of departmental property lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed must be replaced by the licensee.

(B) The loss of any item must be immediately reported to the private security section. No formal police report is required. The private watchman then becomes responsible for appearing at the private security section to obtain and pay for a replacement.

(C) Careless handling of departmental property may be subject to disciplinary action.

(3) Badge/ID Card. The badge/ID card which is issued by the private security section to a licensed private watchman is an easily recognized symbol of authority and responsibility.

(A) The badge/ID card, which is stamped with an issue date and an expiration date, also will state the holder must work unarmed.

(B) This badge/ID card must be worn over the breast on the outermost garment. It must be returned to the private security section upon resignation, suspension or revocation of the license.

(C) Tampering, defacing or altering of this card is subject to disciplinary action or revocation.

AUTHORITY: section 84.340, RSMo 1986.*
Original rule filed April 8, 1988, effective July 1, 1988.

*Original authority: 84.340, RSMo 1939.

17 CSR 20-4.115 Field Inspection

PURPOSE: The St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners has delegated to the members of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department the responsibility for the inspection of private watchmen.

(1) Standards of Conduct. Private watchmen are required to conduct themselves at all times in a manner reflecting the highest standards of professional behavior. Any conduct on the part of a private watchman which, in the judgment of a commissioned officer of this department, may be harmful to the good order, discipline or reputation of this department, or which may involve the integrity of this department, may be punished by oral or written reprimand, suspension for a designated period of time or permanent revocation of license.

(2) Field Inspections. All private watchmen are subject to inspection by officers from the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. The purpose of this inspection is to insure that the license holder is in compliance with the provisions of this rule. This inspection will determine that the license holder—
(A) Has in his/her possession a proper badge/identification (ID) card issued by the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners; 
(B) Is wearing a full uniform; and 
(C) Has not disregarded or deviated from the manual.

(3) Failure to Cooperate. Failure by any license holder to cooperate with a commissioned member of the St. Louis Police Department in the inspection procedures will constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

(4) Arrest of License Holder. During an inspection, if a license holder has been arrested for a felony, a misdemeanor or an infraction involving moral turpitude or license violation, the holder’s badge/ID card will be seized and forwarded to the private security section of the St. Louis Police Department with a copy of the arrest report.

The license holder is to be informed that he/she is suspected and not to continue to work until the matter is resolved by the private security section. If arrested for a felony violation, a formal suspension number will be obtained in the normal manner. The private security section will conduct any necessary investigation or make notification to the jurisdictional agency.


*Original authority: 84.340, RSMo 1939.

17 CSR 20-4.125 Complaint/Disciplinary Procedures

PURPOSE: The St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners has established rules of conduct and the procedures for the investigation of and the discipline for breaches of these rules.

(1) Complaints. Investigation of complaints against licensed watchmen will be handled by the private security section of the division of human resources. The results of the investigation will be forwarded in the form of a report with recommendations through the chain of command to the board of police commissioners. The board will render a judgment concerning disciplinary action. The individual concerned, and his/her employer, will be informed by the private security section of all decisions made by the board of police commissioners.

(2) Reprimands. In instances of misconduct not sufficiently serious to merit suspension or revocation of a license, the license holder may be reprimanded orally or in writing. Any violation of the provision in these rules may be grounds for a reprimand. Reprimands will be a factor considered upon a licensee’s application for a renewal of license or upon the occasion of any later disciplinary action. There is no appeal from a reprimand.

(3) Suspension. In instances where a private watchman is arrested for a felony, the commander or watch commander of the district or any officer acting in that capacity will suspend the private watchman.

(A) In instances where a private watchman is arrested for a crime or ordinance violation, not a felony and depending on the situation, the commander or watch commander of the district or any officers acting in that capacity has the choice of suspending the security officer or contacting the commander of the private security section, who will determine whether or not the private watchman is to be suspended. If unable to contact the commander of the private security section, the report of the incident will be forwarded to the private security section at the earliest opportunity.

(B) Whenever a licensed private watchman is suspended, it will be required that the private watchman surrender his/her badge/identification (ID) card until a decision is made for its return by the commander of the private security section or a disposition is rendered by the board of police commissioners.

(C) Where no warrant is issued or no cause for discipline is apparent, or both, the private watchman’s return to duty is to be determined by the commander of the private security section.

(4) Revocations. A license may be revoked by order of the board of police commissioners for any violations of the rules.

(5) Notification/Appeal. Whenever the license of a private watchman is suspended or revoked by the board of police commissioners, the private security section shall notify the licensee in writing of the action. The licensee shall have ten (10) days from the date of posting notice to request a review of the disciplinary action. The request shall be directed in writing to the commander of the private security section. The request shall state additional supporting facts in his/her defense or rebuttal of the board of police commissioner’s decision, or both.

(A) The commander of the private security section may meet with the licensee and discuss his/her request for review and/or shall conduct a further investigation of the disciplinary case.

(B) The commander, within thirty (30) days of appeal, shall render a decision affirming or reversing the original disciplinary action. The commander shall then send his/her decision and report to the board of police commissioners for final action.

(C) Judgments and decisions of the board concerning appeals in disciplinary matters are final.

(6) Disciplinary Action, Punishment, or Both.

(A) The board of police commissioners retains final authority in all disciplinary matters, including reinstruction, verbal reprimand, written reprimand, suspension and revocation.

(B) Licensed private watchmen, whether on or off duty, are subject to disciplinary action for violations of these rules. Offenses may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Conviction of a felony, misdemeanor or city ordinance;
2. Intoxication or drinking on duty;
3. Possession or illegal use of narcotic or potent drugs (controlled substance);
4. Assumption of police authority when not on duty;
5. Conduct contrary to the public peace and welfare;
6. Interference with any police officer engaged in the performance of his/her duties;
7. Overbearing or oppressive conduct during the performance of duty;
8. Failure to obey a reasonable order by an officer of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department;
9. Any conduct or actions which might jeopardize the reputation or integrity of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department or its members;
10. Failure to wear a valid badge/ID card issued by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police department on the breast of the outermost garment of security uniform, while on duty;
11. Failure to have in possession a badge/ID card;
12. Serving or acting as a private watchman for any agency or other business entity other than the one (1) listed on his/her badge/ID card;
13. Failure to conform to uniform requirements;
14. Working as a private watchman while under suspension;
15. Carrying or using a firearm while performing the duties of a private watchman;
16. Any conduct constituting a breach of security or confidence;
17. Neglect of duty;
18. Failure to notify the private security section when and if arrested on any charge;
19. Failure to aid in prosecution;
20. Defacing or altering the badge/ID card; and
21. Carrying unauthorized nonlethal weapons and/or protective devices.

(7) Categories of Discipline. The board of police commissioners retains final authority in all disciplinary matters, including re-\textit{struction}, verbal reprimand, written reprimand, suspension and revocation. Judgments and decisions of the board are final.

(8) When a license is ordered revoked by the board of police commissioners, the badge/ID deposit fee will be forfeited to the board. Licensed private watchmen who are under investigation by this department for any alleged violations of any rules will be allowed the discretionary resignation for their commission and in these instances will have the badge/ID deposit fee refunded, provided all department-issued equipment is surrendered in the private security section.

(9) Individuals who resign while under investigation will not be considered for a license in the future.

\textit{AUTHORITY:} section 84.340, RSMo 1986.*
\textit{Original rule filed April 8, 1988, effective July 11, 1988.}

*Original authority: 84.340, RSMo 1939.