WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

GT PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY, RESPONDENT.

ORDER 0007944

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 RAL 014

The parties to this action for the purpose of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

GT Private Detective Agency Milwaukee, WI 53201

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services P.O. Box 8366 Madison, WI 53708-8366

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Department of Safety and Professional Services P.O. Box 7190 Madison, WI 53707-7190

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department). The Department has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Department in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent GT Private Detective Agency is permitted by the State of Wisconsin as a private detective agency, having permit number 16928-62, first issued on September 7, 2012 and current through August 31, 2023. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201.
- 2. On September 12, 2019, the Department received a complaint alleging that Respondent was employing Vincent Ashford as a private security person while his private security person permit was expired. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance (DLSC) subsequently opened Case Number 19 RAL 014 for investigation.
- 3. According to Department records, Vincent Ashford's private security person credential expired on September 1, 2018.

- 4. On October 9, 2019, the Department sent a letter to Gregory Williams, owner of Respondent GT Private Detective Agency, to request a response to the complaint and to ask about any services Vincent Ashford had provided for Respondent since Ashford's credential had expired.
- 5. On October 10, 2019, Williams emailed the Department to state that Respondent did not employ Vincent Ashford for the job mentioned in the complaint.
- 6. On October 15, 2019, Williams emailed the Department again and stated that Ashford's credential has remained active for 18 years, including at the time alleged in the complaint.
 - 7. On October 24, 2019, Ashford renewed his credential.
- 8. On March 11, 2020, Vincent Ashford spoke to a Department investigator by phone and stated that he worked for Respondent from September 2018 to October 2019, while his credential was expired.
- 9. On July 13, 2020, Vincent Ashford emailed the Department a copy of his payroll information from his time with Respondent.
- 10. The payroll information provided by Ashford showed that he was hired by Respondent as a "contractor" on September 3, 2018. The documentation also showed that Respondent issued checks to Ashford on October 12, 2018, May 10, 2019, May 24, 2019, August 2, 2019, August 16, 2019, August 20, 2019, and September 13, 2019.
- 11. On February 11, 2021, Williams called and spoke with a Department investigator. Williams stated that Respondent terminated Vincent Ashford in September 2019.
- 12. According to Department records, Respondent employed Vincent Ashford from July 1, 2015 until July 30, 2018.
- 13. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.26(6), and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).
- 2. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in conduct reflecting adversely on professional qualification pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 35.01(13) by assigning a person to perform private detective or security personnel duties while his credential was expired.
- 3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in conduct reflecting adversely on professional qualification pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 35.01(18) by providing false information to the Department or its agent.

- 4. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 32.05(2) by failing to notify the Department of an employee's change in employment within 5 days of the change.
- 5. As a result of the above violations, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.26(6)(a)2, and 4, and Wis. Admin. Code §§ SPS 35.01 and 35.02.

ORDER.

- 1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
- 2. Respondent GT Private Detective Agency is REPRIMANDED.
- 3. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent GT Private Detective Agency shall pay one-half of the COSTS of this matter, for a total of \$577.
- 4. Payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) shall be sent by Respondent to the Department Monitor at the address below:

Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 266-2112; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

You may also submit this information online via DSPS' Monitoring Case Management System at: https://dspsmonitoring.wi.gov/

- 5. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's permit (number 16928-62), or Respondent's right to renew its permit, may, in the discretion of the Department or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of the Order. The Department may, in addition and/or in the alternative, refer any violation of this Order to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further investigation and action.
 - 6. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

A Member of the Department

H-20-2022

Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

GT PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY, RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

ORDER 0007944

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 RAL 014

Respondent GT Private Detective Agency and the Division of Legal Services and Compliance, Department of Safety and Professional Services stipulate as follows:

- I. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.
- 2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:
 - the right to a hearing on the allegations against Respondent, at which time the State has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
 - the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against Respondent;
 - the right to call witnesses on Respondent's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
 - · the right to testify on Respondent's own behalf;
 - the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision;
 - · the right to petition for rehearing; and
 - all other applicable rights afforded to Respondent under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.
- 3. Respondent is aware of Respondent's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation.
- 4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Department's order, if adopted in the form as attached.
- 5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Department, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the

Stipulation is not accepted by the Department, the parties agree not to contend that the Department has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

- 6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Department ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Department in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Department may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such advisor may vote on whether the Department should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.
- 7. Respondent is informed that should the Department adopt this Stipulation, the Department's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.
- 8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Department adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

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Milwaukee, WI 53201 Credential No. 16928-62

Megan Reod, Attorney
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190

Madison, WI 53707-7190

3/23/2022

<u> 3-23-2027</u>

Date