

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

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CONSTABLES' TRAINING BULLETIN

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Waivers of Firearms Training for Law Enforcement Officers Eliminated

By action of the Constables' Education and Training Board and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, all Waivers of Firearms Training for Law Enforcement Officers have been eliminated. Henceforth, requests for Waivers of Firearms Training for Law Enforcement Officers will not be considered. All constables who want to be certified to carry a firearm in the course of their constable duties, including those who are also law enforcement officers, must now attend Act 1994-44 (Act 44) firearms training in its entirety and pass the Act 44 qualification course of fire.

This will not immediately affect constables who have already been granted firearms waivers for 2008. The process of modifying the regulation with the Independent Regulatory Review Commission has been put into motion. Those constables will retain their Board certification to carry for the remainder of 2008. However, they will have to attend Act 44 firearms training in 2008 in order to renew their certifications to carry as constables in 2009.

Enrollment with a regional training delivery contractor is required prior to attending any firearms class. Training is on a first-come, first-served basis. Class space is limited due to the availability of training facilities, and to provide a proper training environment. Enrollments cannot be accepted over the telephone. For constables with Internet access, on line enrollment is available at www.pccd.state.pa.us. Others may enroll by completing a Standard Registration Form. Mail or fax the completed enrollment form directly to the regional training delivery contractor where you want to attend firearms training. Do not send class enrollments to PCCD.

Once certified to carry a firearm while performing the duties of a constable under §2948 of Act 1994-44, a constable or deputy constable must annually attend and successfully complete firearms training in order to remain certified to carry a firearm. An annual background check of each individual's criminal history record is also conducted.

Training Cycle Ends October 31

Constables are reminded that the training cycle ends in late October, and that classes are limited as to size and are on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to ensure uninterrupted certification, constables are encouraged to enroll in class as soon as possible. Enrollment with the appropriate training provider is required prior to attending any class. To enroll, mail or fax a completed standard registration form directly to the training delivery contractor or use the online registration link on the PCCD web site.

Maintaining Liability Insurance

Act 44 states that any constable or deputy constable who fails, neglects or refuses to maintain a current insurance policy as required, or to file proof thereof with the clerk of courts, shall cease automatically to be certified to perform judicial duties upon the expiration of the policy of which proof has been filed with the clerk of courts. In order to ensure uninterrupted constable certification, it is essential that every constable file with the county clerk of courts a new certificate of insurance.

2009 ID Cards

In December 2008, the PCCD will mail new certification cards to all constables who have maintained their certification by successfully completing continuing education during 2008 and by filing current professional liability insurance information with their county clerks of courts. Ample allowance will be made for normal mailing time, so that constables should receive their new cards before the old ones expire on December 31, 2008. To ensure that cards are mailed to the correct address, any constable who has recently changed his address should report that change to the PCCD immediately.

Title 37 §431.11 Registration: A person shall register with the Board for certification by submitting information such as mailing address and telephone number, Social Security number, date of birth and office held or sought. A constable shall set forth the beginning date and expiration date of the term of office held, and provide documentary evidence of election or appointment. A registrant shall inform the Board of a change to registration information within 15 days of the change.

Comments on Training Evaluations

After each of the training sessions, the constable is afforded the opportunity to fill out the comments section on the class evaluation form. Many times, constables do not use this occasion to voice their opinions on what could be added or deleted from the training. We know many constables choose to share their constructive criticism with each other. The only problem with sharing your thoughts only with each other is that it will change nothing in the training program. The Constables' Education and Training Board encourages constructive criticism to enhance the training you are receiving. Please take the time to complete the comments section at the bottom of the training evaluation form.