



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Criminal Justice Services

Francine C. Ecker  
Director

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October 7, 2014

Mr. Kenneth P. D'Angelo  
President  
Private Investigators Association of Virginia, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1115  
Fairfax, VA 22038

Dear Mr. D'Angelo:

I am writing in response to your September 15, 2014, letter in which you discuss your Association's interest in working with our agency on issues of mutual concern. In my meeting with you and other Association representatives, we agreed to continue to discuss issues that impact your industry.

One recurring topic of conversation is concern about the new registration cards for security services registrants, including private investigators. The change in our procedures is based upon statutory requirements and a regulatory change. The Department is required by the *Code of Virginia* to issue a registration card, not a photo identification card.

The practice of issuing photo identification cards was implemented a number of years ago when the Department was able to partner with an outside agency. The applicant's identity was verified prior to the issuance of the credential. When this partnership was no longer feasible, the Department attempted to work with private training schools for the purposes of photo submittal. However, we did not have any control over the identity verification process and we became very concerned about the risk of providing a state-issued photo identification without direct verification of identity. Further, this additional step lengthened the time frame required for the Department to issue a credential.

We believe the employer is responsible for the production of photo identification. We do not issue photo identification cards for law enforcement personnel or correctional officers although we certify those individuals and we do not have any plans to issue them for private security registrants; we do not have the statutory authority to do so.

The look of the registration card has not yet been finalized and we have received many suggestions from registrants about the final template. When our new records management system is on-line, we will have the ability to produce a better quality registration card.

I hope this clarifies the matter, and we look forward to working with you and the Association in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francine C. Ecker".

Francine C. Ecker  
Director