



## STATE OF WISCONSIN

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### **Positions Statements Related to Private Detective Agencies Issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services**

#### **DOES A PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY NEED AN AGENCY LICENSE IF THEY HIRE A LICENSED DETECTIVE?**

Ch [SPS 30.02\(1\)](#), [31.01](#), and [31.02](#), Wisc Admin Code provide that a private detective agency needs an agency license, even if the individual detectives hold a valid Wisconsin license.

#### **DO OWNERS OF PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCIES NEED PRIVATE DETECTIVE LICENSES?**

[Ch SPS 30 \(12\)\(4\)](#), Wisc Admin Code states that an individual or a member of a partnership having a private detective agency license does not need an individual private detective license when not engaged in the work of a private detective.

#### **CAN A PRIVATE DETECTIVE WEAR OR USE A BADGE?**

No, a private detective may not wear or use a badge. Please see [Ch SPS 33.05](#), Wisc Admin Code.

#### **DOES A DETECTIVE AGENCY CONTRACTED WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE SECURITY OR INVESTIGATORY WORK FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR ON FEDERAL PROPERTY NEED A PRIVATE DETECTIVE LICENSE OR A PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY LICENSE?**

This depends on federal law. Any company who wishes to do business with the federal government should consult the federal agency or contracting entity involved for more information.