

December 18, 2003

Donald Bassett, Document Specialist
Division of Licensing
Bureau of License Issuance
P.O. Box 6687
Tallahassee, Florida 32314

Re: Mark Matthews
License applicant # C 2300824

Dear Mr. Bassett:

In regards to the past investigative experience of Mark Matthews, my son and former employee, please be advised that I applied and obtained a private investigation license from the State of Michigan in 1977. My licensee was held in abeyance for a short time because I was an active police officer, Detective Sergeant, with the Flint Police Department, Flint, Michigan. I retired after 24 1/2 years in March, 1977. On doing so, I received my Private Investigation License from the Michigan State Police who at the time regulated applications and issued licenses for private investigations in accordance with Michigan statues. I understand that the Michigan Secretary of State now assumes those responsibilities.

On being issued my agency license, I was required to be bonded and insured. When I first opened my agency, Mark assisted me with investigations by doing research and background checks at the Clerks office of Genesee County, Michigan. Before Mark began to work as a background investigator, I had to submit his fingerprints and personal information on an investigation card for employment with my agency. The employment background check was approved by the Michigan State Police, and it remained in their files until 1984 when Mark moved to Colorado and opened his own agency.

When Mark first began working for me, he was still in high school. After he graduated in 1978, he worked full time with me as a field investigator. At the time, we had acquired accounts with General Motors and several insurance companies to investigate workers compensation claims. His responsibilities included interviewing witnesses, surveillance, and photography.

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I found that Mark was a natural-born investigator, and after he gained experience, I placed him in charge of all field investigations and supervisor of eight other other men who assisted him. During that period of time, Mark handled approximatedly 50-60 claims per month. Several of the investigations were made out of state and as far west as Colorado.

As mentioned, Mark left my agency in 1984. He moved to Denver, Colorado, and opened his investigation ageny. He susequently became very successful while working for numerous insurance companies and the State of Colorado.

I continued working as an investigator until 1993. At that time I closed my agency because of ill health. When I surrendered my license, I had been working for Auto-Owners Insurance Company as a cause and origin fire investigator. When I surrendered my license, the Michigan State Police required me to return my identification card and office license. Consequently, I do not have any documents regarding my business. It may be possible, however, to obtain some documentation from the companies that insured my business: Auto-Owners insurance Company (Bond) and the Lake Agency (Liability).

If I may assist you any further, please feel free to contact me (810-694-4427).

Yours truly,

Robert Matthews
852 Boutell
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Subscribed and sworn before me this 19th day of December.

Richard A. Saathoff
Notary Public

RICHARD A. SAATHOFF
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXPIRES NOV 19 2004