

**Private Investigator Licensing by State**

State	Statute	Link for Licensing or Additional Information	PI License Required for CFE Conducting Fraud Examinations?	CFE Conducting Investigations for Own Employer Exempt?	CPA Exempt?	Notes
Alabama	None	<a href="#">Alabama State Code</a>	Yes, in Birmingham & Mobile, not statewide.	N/A	N/A	Alabama currently has no P.I. licensing requirement, although some cities, such as Birmingham and Mobile, have their own requirements. State statutes list a fee for detective agencies to operate.
Alaska	None	<a href="#">City of Fairbanks PI Licensing Information</a>	Yes, in Fairbanks, not statewide.	N/A	N/A	Alaska doesn't have PI licensing requirements, but the City of Fairbanks requires a PI license and bond.
Arizona	AZ Revised Statutes § 32-24-2409	<a href="#">Arizona PI Licensing</a>	Yes	Yes	No	Statute does not specifically state that CPAs are exempt, but under 32-2409: "a person, firm or corporation, or employee of a person, firm or corporation, engaged in the business of obtaining and furnishing financial and related personal information for others, if the person, firm or corporation does not engage in other investigative research and if the employee is not employed or connected with any private investigator's business" is exempt.
Arkansas	AK Code §17-40 PI Statute; 17-40-103 Exemptions	<a href="#">Arkansas PI Licensing Information</a>	Yes	Yes	No	Investigators are required to be licensed in Arkansas.
California	CA Business & Professions Code § 3-11.3-7512-7573; §3-11.3-7522 Exemptions	<a href="#">California Bureau of Security and Investigative Services</a>	Yes	Yes	No	Anyone conducting an investigation in California must be licensed. Out-of-state PIs may continue an investigation in California that began in their home states if they're licensed in their home states but only under certain circumstances.
Colorado	Colorado Revised Statutes § 1-12-58.5	<a href="#">Colorado PI Licensure</a>	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	A recent Colorado legislative session has enacted requirements for PIs beyond the current voluntary licensure. The state is now developing protocols to comply with the new laws. Check the state's website for updates.
Connecticut	2011 CT General Assembly Vol 9, Title 29, Chapter 534	<a href="#">Connecticut Private Investigative Rules</a>	Yes	No	No	An investigator in Connecticut must be licensed. The statute doesn't make any reference to persons who may qualify for an exemption. The statutes have just been updated, and new rules will be developed. Check website for updates.
Delaware	Delaware Code §24-13-1301-1341	<a href="#">Delaware Private Investigator License Information</a>	Yes	No	No	An investigator in Delaware must be licensed. The statute doesn't make allowances for exemptions.
D.C.	District of Columbia Municipal Regulations §17-2000	<a href="#">DC Metro Police - Investigator Licensing</a>	Yes	No	No	An investigator in Washington, D.C., must be licensed by the district; the statutes do not specify any exemptions.
Florida	Florida Statutes §32-493	<a href="#">FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: Private Investigative Industry</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes, ONLY if licensed CPA in Florida.	An investigator in Florida must be licensed. There's an exemption provided for "persons holding professional licenses in Florida when providing expert advice in their professions" and employees conducting "in-house investigators who are solely, exclusively, and regularly employed as an investigator in connection with the business of an employer that does not advertise or provide investigative services for a fee."
Georgia	Georgia Code §43-38-14	<a href="#">Georgia Secretary of State: Professional Licensing Boards: Board Of Private Detective and Security Agencies</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in Georgia must be licensed.
Hawaii	Hawaii Revised Statutes §10-463 Private Detectives; §10-463-13 Exemptions	<a href="#">Hawaii Board of Private Detectives and Guards</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in Hawaii must obtain a license. In narrow circumstances, a CFE or CPA may not be required to be licensed, but only if their "business is exclusively the furnishing of information as to the business and financial standing and credit responsibility of persons, firms or corporations, or as to personal habits and financial responsibility, of applicants for insurance, indemnity bonds, or commercial credit, or an attorney at law in performing the attorney's duties as such attorney at law."
Idaho	<a href="#">Text of Enacted Bill</a>	<a href="#">State of Idaho Government</a>	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	The State of Idaho has just enacted legislation regarding licensing private investigators. Check with the Bureau of Occupational Licenses for updates.
Illinois	Illinois Revised Statutes §225-447 Private Detectives	<a href="#">IL Division of Financial and Professional Regulation: Private Detective Licensing</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	An investigator in Illinois must be licensed. This act doesn't apply to "The activities of persons or firms licensed under the Illinois Public Accounting Act if performed in the course of their professional practice." If not licensed in Illinois, ensure that reciprocity or mobility practice falls under the PI act.
Indiana	Indiana Code § 25-30-1 Private Investigator Firms; § 25-30-1(5) Exemption	<a href="#">Indiana Professional Licensing Agency: Private Investigator and Security Guard Licensing Board</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	An investigator in Indiana must be licensed. Exceptions to the PI act include "a certified public accountant with a certificate under IC 25-2.1-3 to the extent that the person is engaged in an investigation incident to the practice of accountancy." If not licensed in Indiana, ensure that reciprocity or mobility practice falls under the PI act.
Iowa	Iowa Code § 3-1-80A	<a href="#">Iowa DPS Licensing Bureau</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in Iowa must be licensed. The Iowa Department of Public Safety regulates private investigators. Although attorneys are exempt, there's no mention of CPAs being exempt.
Kansas	Kansas Statutes § 75-7b-3	<a href="#">Kansas Private Investigative Licensing</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in Kansas must be licensed.
Kentucky	Kentucky Revised Statutes §26-329A-070	<a href="#">Kentucky Board of Licensure for Private Investigators</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	An investigator in Kentucky must be licensed. The statute excludes "a public accountant, certified public accountant, or the bona fide employee of either, performing duties within the scope of public accountancy."
Louisiana	Louisiana Revised Statutes § 37-3500	<a href="#">Louisiana Board of Private Investigator Examiners</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes, if licensed in Louisiana.	An investigator in Louisiana must be licensed. The statute exempts attorneys and CPAs licensed to practice within the state of Louisiana.
Maine	Maine Revised Statutes § 32-89-8101 to 8121	<a href="#">ME Department of Public Safety- State Police: Private Investigator Licensing</a>	Yes, unless only conducting investigation for expert witness services.	Yes	Only for expert witness services.	An investigator in Maine must be licensed. Exemption includes "a person acting within the scope of the person's professional practice to analyze facts, evidence or other data for the purposes of supplying expert testimony in a legal proceeding."
Maryland	Maryland Code Title 13 Private Detectives	<a href="#">Maryland State Police: Licensing Division</a>	Yes	No	No	An investigator in the state of Maryland must be licensed. The statute makes no reference to exemptions.
Massachusetts	Massachusetts General Law § 1-20-147, Sections 22-30	<a href="#">Massachusetts PI License Info</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes, if licensed in Massachusetts.	An investigator in Massachusetts must be licensed. Exceptions include "Individuals who are independently and currently licensed by the commonwealth in a profession or field of expertise, whereby they are exclusively utilized and confined in conducting an investigation to that profession or field of expertise, inasmuch as the context and extent of their inquiry and investigation does not exceed the particular area of their profession or field of expertise in which they are independently licensed within the commonwealth."

Michigan	Michigan Compiled Laws §338-821 to 851	<a href="#">Michigan Dept. of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs: Private Investigator Licensing</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	An investigator in Michigan must be licensed. The statute states "a certified public accountant currently licensed, registered or certified by a regulatory agency of this or any other state or a public accounting firm currently licensed, registered, or certified by a regulatory agency of this or any other state, including the employees of the certified public accountant or public accounting firm acting within the scope of the individual's or the public accounting firm's professional practice" are exempt.
Minnesota	MN 2010 Statutes 326.32-326.339: Private Detectives, Protective Agents MN 2010 Statutes 326.32: Definitions MN 2010 Statutes 326.3341: Exemptions MN 2010 Statutes 326.338: Persons Engaged as Private Detectives or Protective Agents	<a href="#">MN State Board of Private Detective and Protective Agent Services</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in Minnesota must be licensed.
Mississippi	None		N/A	N/A	N/A	Mississippi currently has no licensing requirements for private investigators.
Missouri	Missouri 2010 Revised Statutes § 22-324-1100 to 1148	<a href="#">MO Division of Professional Registration: Board of Private Investigator Examiners- Licensing</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	An investigator in Missouri must be licensed. However, "a certified public accountant, performing duties as a certified public accountant, who holds an active license issued by any state and the employees of such certified public accountant or firm assisting in the performance of duties or investigation on behalf of such certified public accountant or firm" is exempt.
Montana	Montana Code §37-60 PI Regulations; §37-60-105 Exemptions	<a href="#">Montana Department of Labor and Industry- Business Standards: Licensing- Board of Private Security Officers and Investigators</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in Montana is required to be licensed.
Nebraska	Nebraska Revised Statutes § 71-3201 Private Detectives	<a href="#">Nebraska Licensing- Private Investigator</a>	Yes	No	No	An investigator in Nebraska is required to be licensed.
Nevada	Nevada Revised Statutes Title 54, Chapter 648	<a href="#">Nevada Private Investigator's Board</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	An investigator in Nevada is required to be licensed. Exceptions include a "holder of a certificate of certified public accountant issued by the Nevada State Board of Accountancy pursuant to chapter 628 of NRS while performing his or her duties pursuant to the certificate."
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Revised Statutes §7-106-F1 to F16	<a href="#">NH Permits and Licensing Unit</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	An investigator in New Hampshire is required to be licensed. Persons exempt from the licensing requirements are "a certified public accountant who holds an active permit issued by any state or a public accounting firm registered in any state, and the employees of such certified public accountant or firm."
New Jersey	New Jersey Statutes § 45-19-9 to 19-27	<a href="#">New Jersey Private Detective Information</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in New Jersey is required to be licensed.
New Mexico	New Mexico Statutes Annotated § 61-27B-1 to 35 Private Investigations Act	<a href="#">New Mexico Private Investigators Advisory Board</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in New Mexico is required to be licensed. CPAs aren't exempt from the licensing requirements.
New York	New York Revised Statutes GBS, Article 7, Sections 70-89A: Private Investigators	<a href="#">NY Division of Licensing Services</a>	Yes	No	No	An investigator in New York is required to be licensed. CPAs aren't exempt from the licensing requirements.
North Carolina	North Carolina Statutes §74C-1-1 to 30	<a href="#">NC Private Protective Services Board</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in North Carolina is required to be licensed. Exceptions include "a person engaged in (i) computer or digital forensic services or in the acquisition, review, or analysis of digital or computer-based information, whether for the purposes of obtaining or furnishing information for evidentiary or other purposes." However, CPAs aren't exempt except as above.
North Dakota	North Dakota Code § 43-30-01; § 43-30-02: Exemptions	<a href="#">North Dakota Private Investigation and Security Board</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	An investigator in North Dakota must be licensed. Exemptions include an "expert who specializes in a specific, limited area of practice ... auditor, accountant or accounting clerk performing audits or accounting functions, or other areas of practice covered by other licensure in the state, and other areas determined by the board, that fall within the individual's scope of employment, incidental to the investigative profession."
Ohio	Ohio Revised Code Title 47, Chapter 4749: Private Investigator; Security Services Ohio Revised Code 4749.01: Private Investigator-Security Services Definitions Ohio Revised Code 4749.03: License Requirements	<a href="#">Ohio Private Investigator/ Security Guard Section</a>	Yes, except for expert witness or consulting expert.	Yes	Yes	An investigator in Ohio is required to be licensed. Exemptions include "attorneys at law or any expert hired by an attorney at law for consultation or litigation purposes," and "an accountant who is registered or certified under Chapter 4701 of the Revised Code, or any of the accountant's employees while engaged in activities for which the accountant is certified or registered."
Oklahoma	Oklahoma 2011 Statutes §59-1750-1 to 14	<a href="#">OK Licensing Private Investigators</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in Oklahoma is required to be licensed and applicants with no training must complete CLEET approved and mandated training.
Oregon	Oregon Revised Statutes § 15-52-703	<a href="#">OR Private Security/ Investigators</a>	Yes	Yes	No, unless expert witness.	An investigator in Oregon is required to be licensed and take an examination through the DPSST. Exceptions include an expert witness conducting an investigation in anticipation of testimony.
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes Title 22	<a href="#">Pennsylvania Clerk of the Courts - PI License Info</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in Pennsylvania is required to be licensed. Licenses are granted by the clerk of the court of the individual county.
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Statutes Section § 5-5-2 to 20	<a href="#">Rhode Island 2010 General Laws Title 5 Chapter 5-5: Private Detective Act</a>	Yes	No	No	An investigator in Rhode Island is required to be licensed. There are no exceptions for attorneys, CPAs or employees conducting internal investigations on behalf of their employer. There is an exception for "an individual employed as a computer forensic specialist who holds professional certification as a computer examiner." Licenses are granted by the county clerks of individual counties.
South Carolina	South Carolina Code of Laws § 40-18-20	<a href="#">South Carolina Private Investigator Business License/Employee Registration</a>	Yes	No	No	An investigator in South Carolina is required to be licensed. There are neither exceptions for CPAs nor for employees conducting internal investigations on behalf of their employers.
South Dakota	None	<a href="#">South Dakota DCI - No PI License Requirement</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A	South Dakota has no licensing requirements for private investigators, but a business "sales" license through the Department of Revenue is required. Some municipalities are considering licensing PIs, so check your jurisdiction.
Tennessee	Tennessee Code Title §62-26 Parts 1-3	<a href="#">TN Private Investigation and Polygraph Commission</a>	Yes, unless acting as a consultant to an attorney, such as an expert witness.	Yes	Yes	An investigator in Tennessee is required to be licensed. Exceptions include "a consultant when the person is retained by an attorney or appointed by a court to make tests, conduct experiments, draw conclusions, render opinions or make diagnoses, where those services require the use of training or experience in a technical, scientific or social science field" and "a public accountant and a certified public accountant, or the agent of either, performing duties relating to public accountancy."
Texas	Texas Statutes Title 10 Chapter 1702	<a href="#">Texas Private Security Bureau</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	An investigator in Texas is required to be licensed. The Texas Commission on Private Security regulates private detectives. Exceptions include "a person or firm licensed as an accountant or accounting firm under Chapter 901, an owner of an accounting firm, or an employee of an accountant or accounting firm while performing services regulated under Chapter 901."

Utah	Utah Updated Code §53-9-101 to 119	<a href="#">Utah Private Investigators</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	An investigator in Utah is required to be licensed. UT Code 53-9-102 (17)(b) states " 'Private investigator or private detective' doesn't include: (i) any person or employee conducting an investigation on the person's or employee's own behalf or on behalf of the employer if the employer is not a private investigator under this chapter; (ii) an employee of an attorney licensed to practice law in this state; or (iii) a currently licensed certified public accountant or CPA as defined in Section 58-26a-102."
Vermont	Vermont 2010 Statutes § 26-59-3151 to 3183	<a href="#">VT Board of Private Investigative and Security Services</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in Vermont is required to be licensed. There's no mention of CPAs being exempt. However, "Attorneys engaged in the practice of law, and law clerks, paralegals and other laypersons regularly employed exclusively by one attorney or law firm when the attorney or law firm retains complete professional responsibility for the work product of the law clerk, paralegal or other laypersons in his, her or its employ" are exempt.
Virginia	Virginia Code § 9.1-1-138 to 150	<a href="#">VA Regulatory Affairs Private Investigators</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in Virginia is required to be licensed. Exceptions include "any certified forensic scientist employed as an expert witness for the purpose of possibly testifying as an expert witness."
Washington	Washington 2011 Revised Statutes §18-165	<a href="#">WA Business and Professional Licenses -Private Investigator</a>	Yes	No	No	An investigator in Washington State is required to be licensed. Although the statute doesn't exempt CPAs, there's an exemption for "a person solely engaged in the business of securing information about persons or property from public records." Attorneys are also exempt.
West Virginia	West Virginia Code §30-18-1 to 13	<a href="#">WV Licensing Private Investigator</a>	Yes	Yes	No	An investigator in West Virginia is required to be licensed. Although attorneys and employees conducting internal investigations are exempt from the licensing requirements, there's no mention of an exemption for CPAs.
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 440, Section 26, Subchapter II	<a href="#">WI Private Detective Licensing</a>	Yes	No	No	An investigator in Wisconsin is required to be licensed. The Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing regulates private detectives. Although attorneys are exempt from the licensing requirements, there's no mention of an exemption for CPAs, and there's no mention of employees conducting investigations for their non-attorney employer.
Wyoming	None	<a href="#">City of Cheyenne PI License Information</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Wyoming doesn't require a PI license. However, the City of Cheyenne requires a license.

Information compiled as of April 9, 2013. All statutes and links are subject to change. Consult local counsel to determine the applicability of statutes in your individual case.