

**BUREAU OF SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES**

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October 2, 2006

Timothy G. Dallinger  
Attorney At Law  
12925 Riverside Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

Dear Mr. Dallinger:

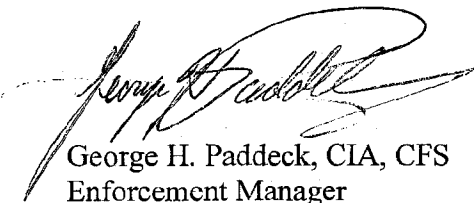
In response to your request for the Bureau to provide a legal opinion concerning "...whether Business and Professions Code §7521, or any of its subparts, require that my clients be licensed as private investigators in order to perform the computer forensic services which they offer at this time." The Bureau requested and has received the following response from the Department of Consumer Affairs Legal Office.

*"The relatively limited activities in which computer forensic examiners engage fall short of the breadth of activities that may be viewed as comprising a competent investigation that could be commissioned from a licensed private investigator."*

Therefore, unless a computer forensic examination is expanded to include other investigation activities that may be viewed as comprising a competent investigation, as detailed in Business and Professions Code §7521, a private investigator license is not required to perform computer forensic examinations in California.

From my review of the various correspondences that you have provided me this past year, I believe that this opinion provides an answer to all of your inquiries. If you have additional questions on this issue, please call me at (916) 575-7006.

Sincerely,



George H. Paddeck, CIA, CFS  
Enforcement Manager