

IN THE MATTER OF

The Private Security Personnel and
Private Investigators Act 2010

AND

IN THE MATTER OF

Complaint by The Police under s 74 of
the Act against **ALFONSO**
BLAKELOCK

HEARD by telephone on 29 January 2020

APPEARANCES

Sergeant J Moody for the Police
A Blakelock, the certificate holder

DECISION

[1] The Police have laid a complaint against Mr Blakelock as he has recently been convicted of assault with intent to injure. He was sentenced to 150 hours community work and 12 months supervision and ordered to pay \$500 reparation. The conviction is grounds for disqualification under s 62 of the Act.

[2] As the assault occurred while Mr Blakelock was working as a security officer the Police consider he is no longer suitable to be a responsible security employee. They are seeking the cancellation of Mr Blakelock's certificate of approval.

[3] Mr Blakelock accepts full responsibility for his behaviour and pleaded guilty to the charge. He accepts what he did was unacceptable but advises that it was out of character and that this is his first conviction of any sort. Mr Blakelock says that he has been assessed as being at a very low risk of reoffending and therefore is not eligible to attend courses he would otherwise be directed to attend. He has however completed further anger management and conflict resolution training through his employer. He also advises that he has already paid a heavy price for what he did, and his conviction means that he is unlikely to be able to pursue his dream to join the Police or armed forces.

[4] Mr Blakelock has provided several letters in support from friends and his employer. They confirm that Mr Blakelock's actions were out of character. His employer for the last two years says that Mr Blakelock has been an exceptional employee and they were shocked by his behaviour. They consider Mr Blakelock should be given a further chance and be allowed to retain his COA.

[5] The appropriate outcome in most cases where a security guard seriously assaults a patron while working is the cancellation of the security guard's certificate. However, I am prepared to make an exception in this case. The conduct which resulted in this complaint being laid occurred more than one year ago. I accept Mr Blakelock's action on the night in question were out of character and that he has been assessed as being unlikely to reoffend in a similar way. In addition, he has voluntarily undertaken further training. Mr Blakelock is well thought of by friends, flat mates and his employer and they all speak highly of his character and confirm that Mr Blakelock is remorseful for which he did.

[6] I am accordingly prepared to waive the ground for disqualification and instead of cancelling Mr Blakelock's certificate I make the following orders:

- Mr Blakelock is formally reprimanded
- Mr Blakelock's certificate of approval is suspended for a period of one month from 3 February 2020.
- If Mr Blakelock is either warned or charged by the Police for a further offence of violence within the period of two years from the date of this decision his certificate of approval will immediately be cancelled. This condition is imposed under s 81(1)(iv) of the Act.

DATED at Wellington this 31st day of January 2020



P A McConnell

Private Security Personnel Licensing Authority