

IN THE MATTER OF

A complaint under s 74 of The Private Security Personnel and Private Investigators Act 2010

BETWEEN

THE POLICE

Complainant

AND

GEOFFREY VERHAAF

Respondent

HEARD

By telephone on 5 December 2021

APPEARANCES

Constable Cameron Burn for NZ Police
G Verhaaf no appearance

DECISION

[1] The Police laid a complaint against Geoffrey Verhaaf after he was convicted on three charges of assault, two charges of wilful damage and a charge of theft. The assault and theft convictions are grounds for disqualification under s 62 of the Act.

[2] The Police have provided background details to Mr Verhaaf's offending. They also advise that he breached his bail conditions several times while the criminal charges were in progress and that Mr Verhaaf came to the Police's attention on other occasions in relation to family harm incidents. The victim of Mr Verhaaf's offending has also obtained a protection order against him.

[3] Section 82 of the Act states that a disqualifying conviction is mandatory grounds for disqualification. Therefore, I must cancel Mr Verhaaf's certificate if I am satisfied that because of this he is no longer suitable to hold a certificate. The nature and circumstances of Mr Verhaaf's offending would have resulted in his certificate being cancelled if it had been in the classes of crowd controller or property guard.

[4] However, as Mr Verhaaf holds a certificate of approval in the class of security technician the Police advise that a suspension only is being sought with some clear guidelines about what Mr Verhaaf needs to do in order to get his certificate reinstated or renewed

[5] I agree with this approach and consider that Mr Verhaaf's certificate should be suspended until he has completed his term of supervision. This will coincide with when Mr Verhaaf's current certificate is due to expire. To get his certificate renewed Mr Verhaaf will need to show that he has addressed the issues that resulted in his offending, complied with his sentence of supervision and not been involved in any other violent or anti-social incidents.

[6] I accordingly make the following orders:

- a) Mr Verhaaf's certificate of approval is suspended effective from Thursday 11 November 2021 until 2 May 2022 when his current COA expires.
- b) Mr Verhaaf may apply to renew his COA or apply for a new COA when his current COA expires. However, for a new COA to be granted he must provide:

- Confirmation that he has completed his term of supervision without any significant breaches.
- Confirmation that he has successfully undertaken a non-violence programme or counselling.
- A supporting letter from his employer, or prospective employer, confirming that they know about Mr Verhaaf's conviction history but consider he is suitable to be a responsible security employee; and
- Confirmation that he has not breached the protection order or come to Police attention for any other offending involving violence since the date of this order

DATED at Wellington this 8th day of November 2021

The seal is circular with a blue border containing the text "THE PRIVATE SECURITY PERSONNEL LICENSING AUTHORITY". In the center is the Royal Coat of Arms of New Zealand, featuring a shield supported by a lion and a unicorn, topped with a crown.

P A McConnell
Private Security Personnel Licensing Authority