

IN THE MATTER OF

A Complaint by the Police under s 74 of the Private Security Personnel and Private Investigators Act 2010 against **RATA-RAEMON TOWGOOD-TAIWHANGA**

HEARD virtually on 3 May 2023

APPEARANCES

Constable N Stringer for NZ Police
R Towgood-Taiwhanga no appearance

DECISION

[1] In 2021 police filed a complaint against Rata-Raemon Towgood-Taiwhanga as he had been charged with assault and assault with intent to injure. Mr Towgood-Taiwhanga was discharged without conviction on both charges so no grounds for disqualification apply to him. However, police have proceeded with their complaint as they consider Mr Towgood-Taiwhanga is no longer suitable to be a security worker on character grounds.

[2] Police advise that on 1 March and 4 February 2023 Mr Towgood-Taiwhanga was the predominant aggressor in family harm incidents. To date he has amassed at least 20 family harm occurrences, in 12 of which he is listed as the aggressor. He is the respondent of a protection order and there is an arrest order issued in relation to two alleged breaches of this order.

[3] Police also have concerns about the way Mr Towgood-Taiwhanga has interacted with police including recording his interactions with them and uploading them to Tik Tok. Police consider that Mr Towgood-Taiwhanga's inability to control his temper and his failure to interact co-operatively with the police means he is no longer suitable to be a security worker. Being no longer suitable to be a certificate holder is a discretionary ground for the cancellation of Mr Towgood-Taiwhanga's certificate.

[4] Mr Towgood-Taiwhanga has a recent history of resorting to violence when provoked particularly when he has been drinking. Several of these incidents have occurred while he had the care of his children. In addition, security guards are often required to work cooperatively with the police either in protecting crime scenes or keeping order. Mr Towgood-Taiwhanga has demonstrated an inability to do this.

[5] Mr Towgood-Taiwhanga has provided no evidence to show that he is addressing his anger and alcohol issues or that he has learnt from his mistakes and can now work cooperatively with the police.

[6] Therefore, based on the evidence before me I am satisfied that Mr Towgood-Taiwhanga is no longer suitable to be a certificate holder. I accordingly make the following orders:

- Mr Towgood-Taiwhanga's certificate of approval is cancelled effective from the date of this order
- Mr Towgood-Taiwhanga is to return his formal security ID to the Licensing Authority within seven days of the date of this order. Failure to do so is an offence under the Act.

[7] Mr Towgood-Taiwhanga can apply for a new certificate in the future. However, to be successful in getting a COA there must be no outstanding breaches of any protection order against him and he needs to have gone for 12 months without being the predominant aggressor in any family harm issues. In addition, he will need to show that he has addressed his alcohol and anger issues and provide supporting references to show he is again suitable to be a security employee.

DATED at Wellington this 3rd day of May 2023



P A McConnell

Private Security Personnel Licensing Authority