

(a) The term "private detective business" [shall mean] MEANS the business of conducting a private detective agency or for the purpose of making for hire or reward any investigation or investigations for the purpose of obtaining information with reference to any of the following matters, notwithstanding the fact that other functions and services may also be performed by the same person, firm, association or corporation for fee, hire or reward, to wit: (1) crime or wrong done or threatened or assumed to have been done or threatened against the government of the United States of America, or any state, territory or possession of the United States of America; (2) the identity, habits, conduct, movements, whereabouts, affiliations, associations, transactions, reputation or character of any person, association, organization, society or groups of persons, firms or corporations; (3) the credibility of witnesses or other persons; (4) the whereabouts of missing persons; (5) the location or recovery of lost or stolen property; (6) the causes and origin of, or responsibility for, fires, accidents, damage, injuries or losses to persons, firms, associations or corporations, or to real or personal property; (7) the affiliation, connection or relation of any person, firm or corporation with any official member or representative thereof; (8) with reference to the conduct, honesty, efficiency, loyalty or activities of employees, agents, contractors and subcontractors; (9) the securing of evidence to be used before any investigating committee, board of award, board of arbitration, or in the trial of any civil or criminal cause[;]. [provided, however, that] HOWEVER, the term [shall] DOES not include a person, firm, association or corporation engaged exclusively in the business of making investigations and reports as to the financial standing, credit and financial responsibility of persons, firms, associations or corporations nor to electrically controlled burglar or fire alarm systems with a central unit, nor to any person, firm, association or corporation exclusively engaged in the business of making reports for insurance or credit purposes except when the making of [such] THOSE reports involves investigation or surveillance normally performed by persons, firms, associations or corporations otherwise subject to this section. Also it [shall mean] MEANS the furnishing for hire or reward of watchmen or guards or private patrolmen or other persons to protect persons or property, either real or personal, or for any other purpose whatsoever, except marine guards or ship watchmen, whether stationed aboard ship or on a pier. The term [shall] DOES not include and [nothing in] this subtitle [shall] DOES NOT apply to any lawful activity of any board, body, commission or agency of the United States of America or of any state, territory or possession of the United States of America or any county, municipality, or other political subdivision thereof, or any officer or employee solely, exclusively and regularly employed by any of the foregoing; nor to any attorney or counsellor at law in