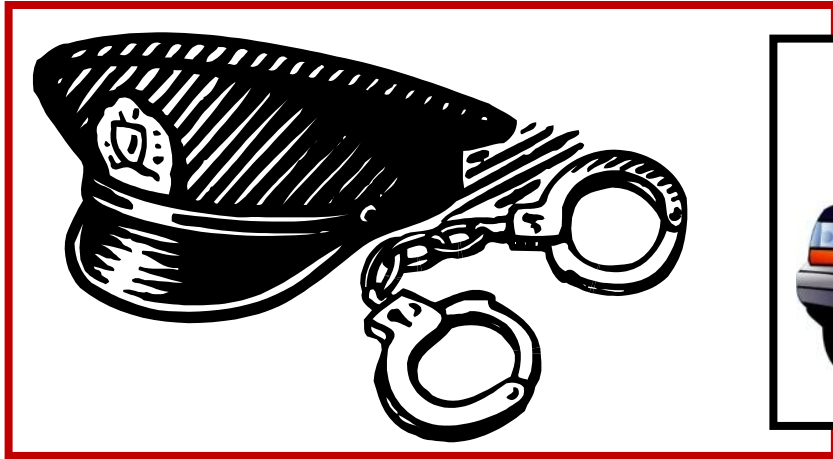


# Law Enforcement



## Career Opportunities

Police Officer  
Private Detective

### Police Officer

The primary duty of sheriffs and police officers is to enforce the law. They help the community fight criminals by making arrests, assisting people with emergency situations, investigating crimes, helping prosecute criminals by collecting and securing evidence, testifying in court, and writing detailed reports.

### Private Detectives

Private detectives and investigators find facts and analyze information about legal, financial, and personal matters. They offer many services, including verifying people's backgrounds, tracing missing persons, investigating computer crimes, and protecting celebrities.

## Schooling / License

### Police Officer

Education requirements range from a high school diploma to a college degree or higher. Most police and detectives must graduate from their agency's training academy before getting on-the-job training. Candidates must be U.S. citizens, usually at least 21 years old, and meet rigorous physical and personal qualifications.

### Private Detective

Private detectives and investigators usually have some college education. However, many jobs do not have formal education requirements; and private detectives and investigators learn on the job. Previous experience in investigative work can be beneficial. Private detectives and investigators need a license in most states.

### Job Outlook

#### Private Detective

expected to grow 21 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations.

### SALARY

#### Police Officer

\$55,010

#### Private Detective

\$42,870

### Job Outlook

#### Police Officer

expected to grow 7 percent from 2010 to 2020, slower than the average for all occupations.