

Certification Renewal

Q. What is required for renewal of certification?

A. Certification is predicated on continuous employment as a police officer. Certification cannot be renewed by any person after leaving police employment. Employed officers renew their certification by completing certified Review Training every 3 years. The subject matter of many of the hours of training is specified and the remainder is elective in content. A minimum of 3 hours of firearms training each year is highly recommended by the Council.

Q. If I am part-time, do I get more time?

A. No. The Council does not distinguish between full and part-time officers. Part-time officers are obligated to renew their certification every three years by completing certified Review Training. A minimum of 3 hours of firearms training is highly recommended by the Council each year.

Q. What if I do not pass my in-service program or firearms qualification?

A. You may be retested or retrained in order to complete the training successfully. If this is not done, your certification will lapse and it may be revoked. Your law enforcement unit also has the option of removing your authority to act as a police officer, though you may continue to be employed in non-police activities (non-officer status). That would be a local decision. However, before certification can be renewed and the officer's police authority can be restored, the appropriate Review Training and firearms qualification requirements must be met. If this does not occur until after the expiration date, only the POST Council can re-certify the officer.

Certification Records

Q. How can I prove certification?

A. Either a probationary candidate or regular certification card will be issued to eligible officers, as appropriate. The card will serve as a primary means of indicating your certification status.

Q. What if I leave my law enforcement unit or become disabled?

A. The certificate is issued to you by the Council through your chief law enforcement officer. When you no longer function as a police officer for that unit, the card **MUST** be returned to the Council through your law enforcement unit. At that point you are no longer considered a certified police officer until such time you are reemployed by the same or another law enforcement unit. Certification of a police officer is contingent upon active employment in a law enforcement unit. In the event you become disabled for a substantial and uninterrupted period of time, your certification may be interrupted and continued when you return to police service. (After four (4) years you must repeat the academy for recertification.)

Q. What if the card is lost or stolen?

A. Report this immediately to your supervisor. A police report shall be given in the jurisdiction lost/stolen and a copy submitted to POST Council Certification Division prior to a new card being reissued.

Q. Is my certification public record?

A. Yes. Anyone may request information regarding your certification and training record.

Recertification

Q. What is a recertification?

A. Recertification is required when an officer who was formerly employed by one law enforcement unit again resumes employment with the same or another law enforcement unit and meets all of the applicable standards of the Council.

Q. What standards apply to a recertification?

A. If you have been previously certified and are subsequently hired (after meeting all entry level requirements) by a law enforcement unit within three years of your termination from the previous law enforcement unit, and you previously served at least two years as a certified law enforcement officer in Connecticut, you are eligible to be recertified without again completing the “Basic Training” program. However, if you have not met all of the applicable review training and firearms qualifications requirements in the previous period of certification, you must complete the training requirements. No certificate will be issued until these requirements are met.

Q. What if I am out of law enforcement for over three years?

A. The Council requires anyone out of law enforcement over three years to meet all entry level requirements and complete the full basic training program. The Council in unusual cases may consider a waiver of some portion of the mandatory training.

Loss of Certification

Q. When does certification lapse?

A. Certification can lapse when you are scheduled for certification renewal and the appropriate Review Training has not been received within the required three year period.

Q. Can my certification be suspended or revoked for reasons other than training?

A. Yes. Your certification can be cancelled or revoked by the Council for any of the grounds specified in Sec. 7-294d (c)(2) (PA 05-200) of the General Statutes.

Q. What if my law enforcement unit failed to provide or allow attendance at the required training?

A. If you believe that you were either not provided an opportunity for training or were involuntarily assigned to an activity that prevented you from receiving your training, and therefore you did not have the training required by law, though no fault of your own, you may request a hearing by the Council. The council may stay the lapse of certification so you may receive the necessary training.

Q. Who is responsible for getting my Review Training?

A. State statute places this responsibility on each police officer.