

August 1, 2017



Florida Department of Law Enforcement

P.O. Box 1489

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1489

850-410-8647

RE: PETITION FOR WAIVER OF RULE 11B-35.002 Basic Recruit Training Programs
for Law Enforcement, Correctional, and Correctional Probation

Dear FDLE Agency Clerk:

I am requesting a waiver of rule 11B-35.002 Basic Recruit Training Programs for Law Enforcement, Correctional and Correctional Probation. My petition pertains specifically to section (2)(a) where it states within four years of the beginning date of a Commission-approved Basic Recruit Training Program, an individual shall successfully complete the program, achieve a passing score on the applicable State Officer Certification Examination (SOCE) pursuant to rule 11B-30.0062, F.A.C., and gain employment and certification as an officer. I did complete and follow all of these guidelines, but my certification expired while I was completing the background portion of the hiring process with the Largo Police Department. The expiration date was exactly 36 days from my official hire date with their agency.

After completion of the Basic Recruit Law Enforcement Academy on 11/22/2013, I successfully passed the State Officer Certification Examination on 01/29/2014. I applied for a Law Enforcement position at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office while still enrolled in the Basic Recruit Law Enforcement Academy, but was not selected. I also applied to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office upon completion of the Basic Recruit Law Enforcement Academy, however, there was a delay in the process between the first and second interviews. During that delay, my girlfriend became pregnant with our child. Due to this newly obtained financial hardship, I enlisted in the United States Army on 05/05/2014. It was after my enlistment that I received notification from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office advising me of a second interview, but I could not accept the offer to attend.

I served in the United States Army from 05/05/2014 until 06/26/2017 when I began employment as a Law Enforcement Officer with the Largo Police Department. I submitted an application for employment with the Largo Police Department between the open application times of 03/17/2017 and 03/31/2017. I completed the hiring process after that time and received a conditional job offer of employment on 05/11/2017 from Chief Undestad, the Chief of Police for the Largo Police Department. After the conditional offer date, I completed the required medical, physical and other testing requirements. Unbeknownst to me, my Basic Recruit Law Enforcement Certification expired on 05/20/2017, exactly 36 days before my official hire date with the Largo Police Department and after my conditional employment offer. I was also still actively employed as a member of the United States Army when my certification officially expired. I sought and received approval from the United States Army to be honorably discharged early in order to obtain employment with the Largo Police Department.

The purpose of the under lying statute is to keep all Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers training up to date, to continue the training for all officers to be confident in their duties, to keep a minimum standard for Law Enforcement and Corrections officers being hired at a basic recruit level and to hold their certification.

The Law implemented is 943.12, 943.17 FS.

Based on the following reasons, I am adequately trained as required. I completed the Basic Recruit Law Enforcement Academy where I received training in Legal, Diversity, Patrol fundamentals, Criminal Investigations and all high liability classes to include, Firearms, Defensive Tactics, TASER and First Aid. After being hired by the Largo Police Department, I have begun to receive all of the required classes to ensure my certification and training is up to date. Upon completion of the "in-house" training at the Largo Police Department, I will be required to go through a 4 phase Field Training Program (FTO) for 14 weeks in order to pass recruit level training and become a self-sufficient Patrol Officer for the Largo Police Department.

I am requesting that my certification be reinstated so that the Largo Police Department can activate and hold my certification with their agency. This agency is willing to hold my Law Enforcement certification upon approval of this petition for waiver and I've attached a letter from the Deputy Chief of Police representing this.

In essence, the expiration date of my certification was incredibly close to my hire date. I was also given an official conditional offer of employment by the Chief of Police prior to my certification expiring on 05/20/2017. The official hire and start date of 06/26/2017 was due to post conditional offer testing and background requirements, which I successfully completed.

I have worked very hard to earn this certification and to have to go back through the full, Basic Recruit Law Enforcement Academy would put a great amount of stress on my family, not to mention the financial burden it would cause. I sought and was granted permission to relinquish my position in the United States Army in order to gain employment with the Largo Police Department.

If you were to grant this temporary waiver of rule 11B-35.002 Basic Recruit Training Programs for Law Enforcement, Correctional and Correctional Probation, it would extend my certification by the 36 days which would allow me to have the Largo Police Department activate and hold my Law Enforcement Certification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "M. S.", is written above a black redaction box.