

Competences of Private Security Personnel for Securing Crime Scenes: The View of Security Managers

Boštjan Slak, M.A., Assistant, Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security,
University of Maribor, Slovenia. E-mail: bostjan.slak@fvv.uni-mb.si

Sara Trstenjak, M.A., Teacher of expert-theoretical subjects on the educational
program - Security Technician, School Center Ljubljana, Slovenia.
E-mail: sara.trstenjak@sclj.si

Due to the nature of their work, private security personnel are likely to be among the first to detect an incident, arrive at the crime scene, and even come in contact with the perpetrator(s) of the criminal offence. In such situations, they are required to carry out necessary procedures, which may include reporting the crime, apprehending the perpetrator(s), and properly securing the crime scene. In this paper, we focus on the latter aspect. Using an online questionnaire, we surveyed a group of security managers to self-evaluate security personnel competencies in securing crime scenes, while also inquiring how they perceive the role of security personnel in investigating criminal offenses. The results indicate that security managers assess the role of security personnel in the initial stages of criminal investigations as potentially important. They are aware of the importance of adequately securing a crime scene with a positive view of their competence to do so. It is encouraging that they also recognize the need for further education in this area. Based on the findings, it would be worthwhile to also examine the actual level of professionalism with which crime scenes are secured and investigated. In cases when security personnel are the ones securing the crime scene, feedback from the police regarding the quality of their work would be very beneficial for improving existing practices.

Key words: securing the crime scene, security personnel, competences

UDC: 351.746.2+343.98