

Crime Prevention Inspectors

vs.

Certified Crime Prevention Specialist Designations

Historically, article 5.33A of the Insurance Code was the code that authorized Crime Prevention Inspectors, whose purpose was to conduct homeowner inspections for persons requesting them. (More accurately, the State Insurance Board authorized Homeowner's Insurance Inspectors for civilians, and Crime Prevention Inspectors, for police officers, both of whom could conduct inspections after the required training.) Homeowners that complied with the requirements of the inspection were generally allowed a reduction in their homeowner's insurance premiums. The Insurance Board only required 20 hours of training to gain either the civilian or officer designation noted above, but historically most of the training actually took place during the 40-hour training under TCLEOSE course # 2102.

Article 5.33A of the Insurance Code was repealed by the legislature on June 1, 2003, as part of the Omnibus Insurance Bill, thereby doing away with the titles of Homeowner's Insurance Inspector and Crime Prevention Inspector and essentially eliminating the Insurance Inspection Program. However; that said, many of the individual insurance companies continued to recognize and honor the inspections. They still recognize the State Inspection Form and many still allow discounts of some amount on homeowner's insurance premiums, so the program has continued on a sort of ad hoc basis. Essentially, the legislation was repealed but the program survived.

Individual law enforcement agencies must determine for themselves if they want to provide this inspection service to the citizens they serve. If they choose to do so, the old Insurance Inspection Form is still used to submit to the respective homeowner's insurance company. Further, officers should, at the very least take what is now TCLEOSE course # 2101 in order to gain the skills needed to perform the inspections properly. Since the insurance inspection form is often hard to find, the Institute for Criminal Justice Studies (I.C.J.S.) has put the form on their website for download in pdf format by anyone needing it. The link is as follows:

<http://www.cscs.txstate.edu/icjs/downloads/Crime%20Prevention/Crime%20Prevention%20Home%20Inspection%20Form.pdf>

You may also go to the I.C.J.S. home page, <http://www.cscs.txstate.edu/icjs.htm> , click on "Crime Prevention Updates" on the left, and look for "Home Owners Inspection Form."

The title of Crime Prevention Inspector was often confused with the designation of Certified Crime Prevention Specialist (C.C.P.S.), provided under the auspices of the Texas Crime Prevention Association (T.C.P.A.). This confusion continues to this day. To gain the designation of C.C.P.S., persons who are members of one of the regional Texas crime prevention associations for at least a year, and who complete a 40 hour Crime Prevention I class, a 40 hour Crime Prevention II class and a 24 hour CPTED class can then sit for the C.C.P.S. exam. This exam was, and still is, administered through the Institute of Criminal Justice Studies (Texas State University, San Marcos) and proctored by the Texas Crime Prevention Association. Persons who pass the test

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then gain the title of Certified Crime Prevention Specialist, a designation given by T.C.P.A., *not* TCLEOSE and *not* the State Insurance Board. TCLEOSE has never recognized the designation of Crime Prevention Inspector or Certified Crime Prevention Specialist (although that should change soon if all goes as planned – see * below.) Because *one* of the three courses (then # 2102, now # 2101) to be eligible to sit for the C.C.P.S. exam was the same one needed to learn how to become a Crime Prevention Inspector, the confusion and assumption arose as to the designations being one and the same. This has never been the case and is not today.

Recently, the Institute of Criminal Justice Studies, operating under their policy to provide quality crime prevention training curriculum to law enforcement officers state-wide, updated the lesson plans and learning objectives for Crime Prevention I, Crime Prevention II and CPTED. These updated lesson plans were submitted to TCLEOSE in early January. On January 9, 2009, TCLEOSE assigned course # 2101 to Crime Prevention I, # 2102 to Crime Prevention II and # 2103 to CPTED, making it the first time that these three courses had a specifically assigned TCLEOSE number. In order to sit for the C.C.P.S. exam, these three courses must be taken, and the one year membership requirement under T.C.P.A. must also be met.

In summary, the Crime Prevention Inspector designation was only a State Insurance Board designation. The Certified Crime Prevention Specialist designation was only a Texas Crime Prevention Association designation, and while often confused, one was never meant to confer, or infer, the same title or designation to the other.

* At the present time, the C.C.P.S. designation is still only conferred by T.C.P.A. Efforts are being made, once the test is updated to conform with the newly revised curriculums, to have TCLEOSE also recognize the C.C.P.S. designation under a new TCLEOSE lesson number, hopefully # 2104.

** It should also be noted that the old State Insurance Inspection form still calls for the officer conducting the inspection to put their social security number on the form. Due to the increased incidence of identity theft, officers are highly discouraged from placing their social security number on the form. Rather, officers should put their PID number.

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