



Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training

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Date: December 19, 2019
Bulletin: No. 2019-42
Subject: **Background Investigation Manual Revised**

The *POST Background Investigation Manual: Guidelines for the Investigator* has been revised to include recent changes to Government Code section 1031.1, updated education information, and the addition of information on verifying applicant eligibility for appointment. The changes are noted below.

Employment:

Revisions to GC 1031.1 consistent with those addressed in [Bulletin 2019-31](#) were made to the “Employers” section on *Page 5-12* and *Appendix C: Sample C.9* (copy of Government Code section 1031.1).

Education:

A footnote has been added to the education section of Chapter 5 of the Manual to reflect recent changes to approved accrediting bodies. Specifically, AdvancED, one of the accrediting bodies identified in GC §1031(e) has merged with another vendor to become Cognia. Educational institutions (i.e., primarily private high schools) with this accreditation will continue to include AdvancED as the accrediting body until their accreditation renewal, which could be several months to years depending upon their accreditation cycle. However, the AdvancED website has been updated to redirect to the new www.cognia.org website. POST will work with the legislature to make the necessary changes to the AdvancED accreditation reference in GC §1031(e). In the interim, this change is included as a footnote on *Page 5-9*.

An additional education issue to note relates to the high school equivalency test. Although not specifically mentioned in the Manual, the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC), which is one of the three equivalency tests currently recognized by the California Department of Education, *will no longer be available in California after December 31*. The General Education Development (GED) test and the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) will continue to be offered as alternatives for meeting the education requirement of GC §1031(e).

Appointment Eligibility:

In addition to conducting background investigations, many investigators are tasked with verifying that candidates have met POST training requirements and are eligible for appointment. To address this issue, language has been added to *Pages 4-17* and *5-10* of the Manual, including information on how to obtain POST training profiles.

Questions regarding this Bulletin may be directed to [Melani Singley](#) at (916) 227-4258.

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