

Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) Response to Questions Regarding 13 AAC 85, 89 Emergency Regulations: Alaska Police Standards Council - United States Nationals

Here is a link to the Public Comment Notice: <http://notice.alaska.gov/199316>

The following question was received by APSC prior to September 30, 2020:

Question: “Please explain these regulations and why they have been put forth. Why are you including US nationals? What does that exactly mean? How is this different from what we are doing now? This is completely separate from the federal branch, military etc correct? Thanks for your explanation.”

Answer: Previously, Alaska Police Standards regulations required an applicant be a “United States Citizen” to be eligible for hire in any APSC certifiable position. Recently, the Council learned this regulatory language precluded the hiring of United States Nationals (U.S. Nationals) born in certain Territories of the United States (American Samoa and Swains Island). The Council found that it was not its intent to exclude US Nationals from hire or certification as officers, when adopting regulatory changes in 2016. This exclusion unreasonably limits the applicant pool in times when more applicants are drastically needed. In the last year, APSC learned of interested applicants who were found ineligible only because of their status as a U.S. National.

The Alaska Police Standards Council found that, in an effort to immediately increase the pool of applicants, and quickly correct an unintended policy restriction, the regulations should be immediately updated to include United States Nationals as applicants eligible to be hired to APSC certifiable positions.

This regulation change does not involve; “federal branch, military, etc.”

The period for written questions ended September 30, 2020, to allow time for the agency to answer them prior to the end of the comment period. To be considered, comments must be submitted by 4:29 p.m. on October 9, 2020.