2-04/070.30 - Media Credentials

Media credentials are intended to provide ease of access for and identification of journalists. In situations where access or space is limited, credentials identify individuals as members of the media, who act as a gateway for the public. In addition, credentials can help Department members quickly identify reporters during emergency situations or demonstrations. However, the lack of a credential, standing alone, does not mean an individual is not—or should not be considered—a member of the media. Constitutional protections for journalists and access to media areas do not depend on the possession of a credential.

Examples of credentials include:

- A valid media identification card (press pass) issued by any law enforcement agency, government agency, or fire department within the state;
- Employee identification card/badge for a news service;
- Press credentials or identification card issued by a press trade group (e.g., Los Angeles Press Club, National Press Photographers Association, Radio Television News Association);
- Professional business card for a news service/news organization;
- Letter of assignment for freelancer on news organization letterhead; and
- Credentials for journalism majors and school news publications or websites at an accredited secondary school, community college, college, or university.

Note - Photo identification may be required to confirm the possessor is the person named on a credential.