



Considerations when Hiring Bodyguards

Orlando Wilson
Protective Service & Training

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Risks Incorporated
“Stay Low & Keep Moving”

Creating a Safe World

Risks Incorporated is a progressive, European - owned and managed specialist security and training company that has proven itself many times on international operations. We have compiled this document to help people identify potential problems they may encounter and to take preventive action to protect themselves, their families, and their assets.

Risks Incorporated's clients can be assured they are getting the best training and services available from experienced professionals! I personally have over 27 years experience working in the international security industry, what we teach is based on reality, not what someone with no real operational experience thinks would work in a hostile situation. I am a published author and have been interviewed by numerous international TV and media outlets ranging from the New York Times to Soldier of Fortune Magazine on topics ranging from kidnapping, organized crime to maritime piracy. My books “International Security” & “Life or Death” are available on Amazon.

Contact us for more information on our training courses in US, Europe & The Middles or about out international security services.

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Drivers & Bodyguards... Why I don't trust many of them!!

The quality of bodyguards and trained security drivers can vary greatly and in most places the standards are low. I have seen many clients over the years being driven around protected by guys who just happen to have a firearms permits or are moonlighting local police, who for all these clients know are working for the criminals also. Several years ago I went with two American clients to an island in the Caribbean where the crime and kidnapping rates were high. My clients were dealing with a European company on the island that were to provide them with security but they want me to go along as they were not getting a positive feeling from the trip and arrangements. So, I arrange extra trusted local armed security personnel and an armored vehicle to accompany us.

Drivers & Bodyguards... Why I don't trust many of them!!The population of the island is predominantly of African descent so my clients and I had no real chance of blending in. My business partner met us with our local security guys inside of the airport, as there is always a high risk when leaving airports because you are being channeled. We then went to look for the security personnel who had come to pick up my clients from the European company they were dealing with. This companies bodyguard was easy to spot as he was the only white guy outside of the airport holding a sign with mine and my client's names on. At this stage the bodyguard did not know I was providing security for my clients, as we going to his vehicle I informed him that I had my own local security personnel who would be following us back to our hotel. As we drove through the city my guys in a black SUV drove very aggressively and stayed close to our vehicle. When we got to our hotel the bodyguard told us to stay in the car as he thought we were being followed and was going to check the car out behind us; we were being followed, by my security people, he had not been listening when I informed him of this.

Drivers & Bodyguards... Why I don't trust many of them!!This bodyguard who I know must have done at least five years' European military service and I expect at least one specialist training course made two very big mistakes that could have led to serious problems. One, he stood out at the airport and by having mine and my client's full names on a piece of paper was letting everyone know who we were. If a criminal with an internet capable cell phone had Googled my clients names they would have seen, they were worth kidnapping. Two, why did he wait until we got back to our hotel to check out my security guy's car that was following us. If he thought they were a threat he should have asked us if we knew them, taken evasive action or stayed mobile and called for support; which this company claimed to have on standby. If my guys had been criminals this bodyguard had just taken them to our place of residence. I still don't know what he was going to achieve by going and checking my guys out at the hotel as he had no authority to stop and question anyone, he was also carrying a firearm which he could not really legally have a permit to carry.

Drivers & Bodyguards... Why I don't trust many of them!!This is a good example of supposedly trained security personnel not knowing or caring about what they are doing. I expect they had not had any problems or though no one would target them and had relaxed to a point of being ineffective, this happens if security teams are not well managed. The other funny thing was as we were leaving our hotel

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to go to my client's first meeting with this company the car they supplied got a flat tire and it had no break down kit. So, we transferred everyone to my local guy's vehicle and left the driver to deal with the flat. We let the bodyguard sit in the front as we felt sorry for him; he was not having a good day!

Drivers & Bodyguards... Why I don't trust many of them!! If you are going to use local drivers and security personnel try to get them some training or at least go through your basic emergency plans with them. If you are under a threat, let them know that the threat also applies to them and their families. Make sure they take the relevant security measures and are always vigilant for the threat of criminal surveillance. Your driver should never stand outside the vehicle when you approach it, have a safety signal with them and do not approach the vehicle until they give the signal. The driver should always be behind the wheel with the engine running and ready to make a quick escape in the case of an emergency. On arrival at your destination the driver should remain behind the wheel of the vehicle; it would be the job of the bodyguard to open your door, if required. You should always know where the driver is and how to contact them. If the driver is not 100% trusted only inform them of routes or destinations just before or after the journey has started and do not give them any long term schedules.

The Close Protection / Bodyguard Business

I tell people I would never recommend the close protection / bodyguard business to anyone as a career, but personally I would do nothing else. I have been working in the commercial security industry internationally since 1993 after I left the British Army. In this article I will talk about the close protection industry but over the years a lot of my business has also come from security and tactical training as well as corporate investigations. If close protection services are provided properly they combine a lot of different skill sets, sadly most of the supposed professionals in the industry don't seem to understand this....

I've provided services to a wide variety of clientele most of whom have been excellent to work with mainly because I don't just take any clients. Providing close protection / bodyguard services to a client is a lot different than providing regular security services, it's a lot more of a personal service. I have seen companies in London piss off clients because they treated them, their families and homes the same as if they were providing security for an office block. This was down to bad management personnel with no commercial close protection experience.

Because close protection is a personal business in which you can end up spending a lot of time in close proximity with your clients there has to be a rapport. If the bodyguard and the client do not get along then you're going to have problems. The client's lifestyle needs to be taken into consideration when deciding if you or one of your people can work with them. Problems can come from let's say clients that like the night club scene and can range from alcohol abuse, recreation drugs or sexual partners they decide to pick up. These things are part of life and you need to take them into consideration with your assessments and plans. I personally tend to stick with the clients with issues in the more edgy locations but know plenty of personnel who are at home in the nightclubs of London and Paris.

As for those providing close protection and bodyguard services the quality ranges from excellent to liabilities on legs. Sadly most fall into the latter category. The main qualities a good close protection operative / bodyguard needs is intelligence and to be able to communicate with people from all backgrounds. People put an emphasis on guns and martial arts because they want to be Hollywood tough

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guys right? But they forget the emphasis needs to be on avoiding the problem, violent situations mean people get hurt, killed, go to jail and in the U.S. most likely sued! Saying that you need to be street wise and be able to protect yourself and clients, if you worried about such things as a broken nose or scuffed knuckles you’re defiantly in the wrong business.

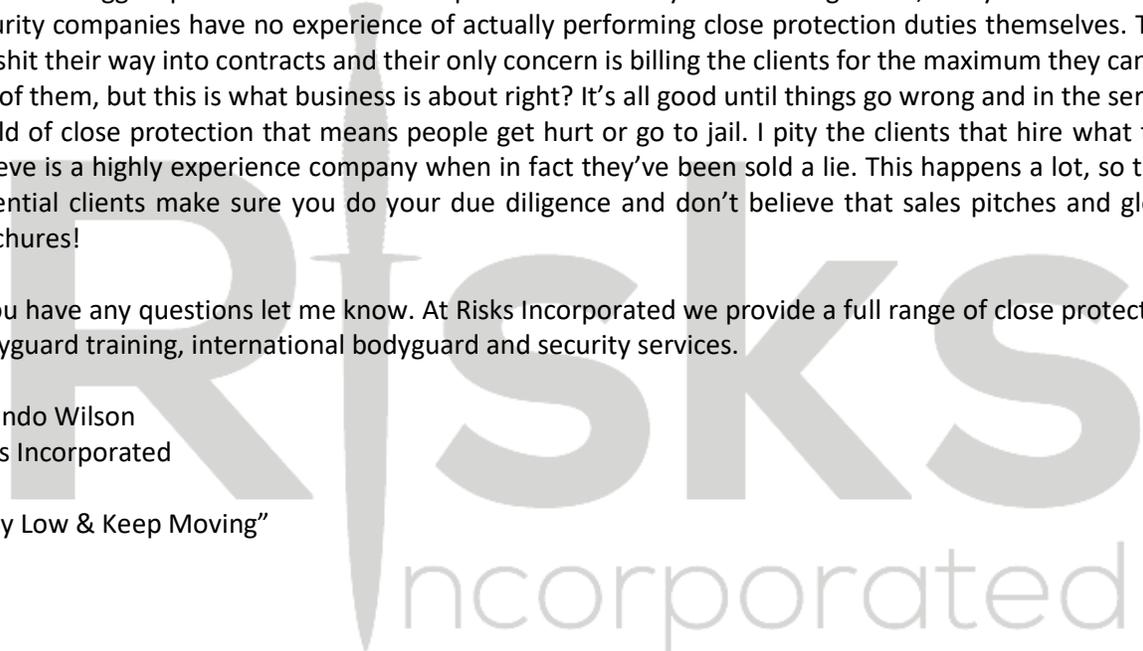
I have had students attend my course who have been through other supposed close protection schools and were far less capable than many novices because they had been miss-trained for commercial close protection. U.S./Israeli government agency style techniques don’t work when the client is traveling with 1 bodyguard... Try walking around a busy shopping mall in Dubai or anywhere for that matter in a fixed 4-man formation... PSD techniques work in Iraq and Afghanistan but you’re not going to be walking around Ibiza with and AK or M-4... Understanding budgets and international laws is also part of your planning and preparation.

One of the biggest problems with the close protection industry is bad management, many of those running security companies have no experience of actually performing close protection duties themselves. They bullshit their way into contracts and their only concern is billing the clients for the maximum they can get out of them, but this is what business is about right? It’s all good until things go wrong and in the serious world of close protection that means people get hurt or go to jail. I pity the clients that hire what they believe is a highly experience company when in fact they’ve been sold a lie. This happens a lot, so to all potential clients make sure you do your due diligence and don’t believe that sales pitches and glossy brochures!

If you have any questions let me know. At Risks Incorporated we provide a full range of close protection, bodyguard training, international bodyguard and security services.

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We hope the information in this document has been of use to you. Please remember this is basic information, if you have any questions then please feel free to contact us.

We supply corporate investigations, maritime security services, executive protection, tactical firearms training, kidnap and ransom services, tactical training, travel security, kidnapping prevention, community security group, SWAT, and bodyguard training. Our clients range from entrepreneurs to corporate law firms and from trainee bodyguards to specialist tactical police units and government agencies actively engaged in counter narco terrorism and counter insurgency operations. We have training location in US, Europe and The Middle East, our instructors are also available to travel to your locations.

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