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PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS
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**GUIDELINES REGARDING THE STAUTORY ROLE OF THE PROFESSIONAL LAND
SURVEYOR IN THE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROCESS**

The State Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors (Board) has recently had discussions with the Rhode Island Association of General Contractors to clarify the role of the Professional Land Surveyor in the building construction process. The purpose of this Informational Bulletin is to offer guidelines regarding which duties in the construction process must involve the services of a Professional Land Surveyor, as required by R.I. General Laws Section 5-8.1-1 et seq.

The following outline is intended to assist registrants, state and municipal officials, contractors, clients and the general public to clarify the role of the Professional Land Surveyor in the construction process:

1. The Professional Surveyor shall conduct the boundary survey of the property to be developed.
2. The Professional Surveyor shall establish control lines on the ground for the location of the building as designed and approved (permitted).

3. Where applicable, the Professional Surveyor shall establish one or more column lines along both axes of the building.
4. The Professional Surveyor shall establish additional control lines for the building as needed, based on the size and/or complexity of the project.
5. The Professional Surveyor shall establish vertical control reference monuments (benchmarks) for the project.
6. The Professional Surveyor shall perform such other horizontal and vertical control work necessary to ensure that the building and other improvements or fixed works are placed in accordance with regulatory approvals and permits.
7. The Professional Surveyor shall conduct such activities as relate to or are to be used for the certification or declaration of the positional accuracy of the building (“as-builts”) and other improvements or fixed works.
8. The Professional Surveyor shall be responsible for the layout of improvements or the collection of data which is customarily depicted in or reported by any surveying activity referred to in Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 5-8.1-1 et seq.

The above list is not intended to be comprehensive; it is provided for guidance only. Please be advised that these guidelines do not supersede any existing laws, rules, or regulations, and that the Board reserves the right to evaluate each case on its merits.