

THE SLEUTH

BLACKMAN DETECTIVE SERVICES NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2021, CASE NUMBER 21-03S



REAL CASE STORIES FROM REAL DETECTIVES

#21-03S: YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET BUT DO YOU KNOW WHO'S IN YOUR ATTIC

It was 1998 in the city of Raleigh. A retired couple was living comfortably in their 1.5 story home in their middle-class neighborhood when they started to notice strange happenings in their home. They noticed food missing and furniture being moved around, this continued for some time until they decided to contact the police. When the local PD searched the house they found nothing out of the ordinary and no evidence of breaking and entering. With no evidence of a crime, there was nothing the police could do. The couple continued to notice food missing from the fridge and pantry, and things being moved around their house as if someone had been there while they were gone. They contacted the police again who advised that they change the locks and install a burglar alarm, they took their advice in the hopes that it would put a stop to their conundrum. Unfortunately, the mystery continued and the couple decided to contact BDS instead of the police to see if our seasoned detectives could crack the case. Investigators met with the clients at their home to complete a security check. Our investigators decided to assign a surveillance team to watch the house while the clients were away in the hopes that they might catch the intruder. Detectives didn't see anyone come in or out of the house during surveillance but when the couple returned they still found food missing from the refrigerator.

SNEAK PEEK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

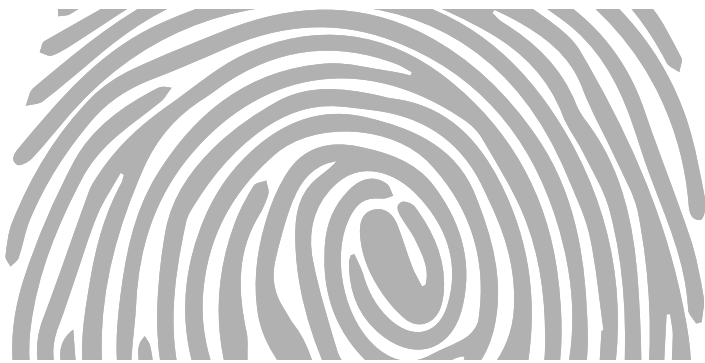
CASE #21-03S- YOU KNOW
WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET
BUT DO YOU KNOW WHO'S
IN YOUR ATTIC?

LITTLE RED FLAGS - WHEN
SHOULD YOU HIRE A PI?

DID YOU KNOW? - COMMON
MYTHS ABOUT PRIVATE
INVESTIGATORS DEBUNKED

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DETECTIVE SERVICES





LITTLE RED FLAGS

In an attempt to be more thorough we arranged for the client to be gone for most of the day and assigned two investigators to sit on the house so that we could have every entry point covered. Again, the clients returned and said that someone had been in the house. Frustrations arose as the investigation yielded few results. One of the investigators decided to search the home a second time, this time, they found a toothpick on the floor directly underneath the attic pull-down stairwell. After calling for backup the attic stairway was opened and investigators entered the attic. Just off from the stairway entrance, a wall had been built to separate one half of the attic from the other. The wall included a locked door to enter the other side. Investigators knocked and received no answers. When they requested a key to the door from the clients they said they did not have a key to the door because they had not built it. They forced the door open and found a makeshift bedroom, with foam padded floors, a bed, and lots of electronic equipment. They did not find anyone in the room in the initial sweep. The investigator noticed a loose panel on one of the short walls and removed it. Upon removal of this panel, the investigator noticed an individual's feet and legs. The investigator called out to their associate and asked if they had brought their firearm to the scene in case this person became violent. The man trying to conceal himself heard this and promptly stated that he would come out of hiding without a struggle. As the investigators questioned the individual, the female client called from below "Erick is that you?", "...yes momma," the man responded. Investigators left the scene as the family sat down to work things out.

As it turns out the couple's son had left home seven years prior due to disagreements with the father. He bounced around for five years and decided that life on his own was too difficult. One day when their home was empty, Erick entered it and after a week or two of stealthily living there, he decided to stay and build the living space the investigators had found in the attic. He had acquired the electronic equipment as a way to keep himself entertained and had actually learned to tap into the alarm system. Erick lived in the attic of his parent's home for almost seven months.

DO YOU NEED TO HIRE A PI?



DO YOU NEED TO PUT A BDS INVESTIGATOR ON THE CASE?

IF YOU NEED...

- to obtain information on the whereabouts, identity, conduct, or credibility of a person or company
- to conduct background checks or searches of potential lovers, business partners, or companies
- to have someone followed to see if he or she is being deceitful
- to pre-screen an applicant or business partner
- to check the legitimacy of a potential investment
- help researching a crime, wrongdoing, or threat
- to find the cause of fires, property damage, or accidents and/or the persons responsible for them
- to safeguard your business' premises, property, assets, people, or information
- to locate and recover lost or stolen property
- to verify employees' claims, such as workers' compensation claims
- to investigate a scene or interrogate a witness
- to access up-to-date computer databases of public records

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STANDING BEHIND OUR WORK



DID YOU KNOW? COMMON MYTHS ABOUT PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS

The Law doesn't apply to private investigators:

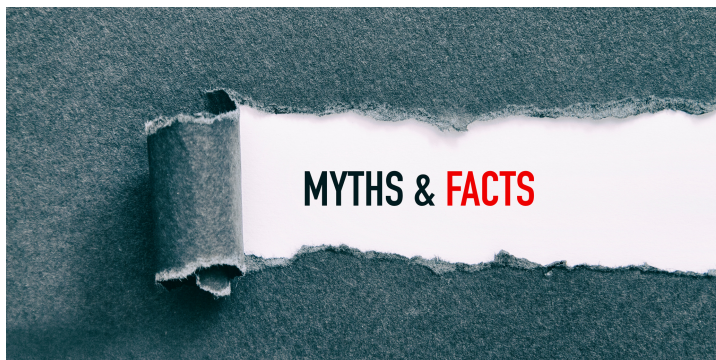
PIs do not have the backing of the legal system and must obey the law like every other citizen. In fact, private investigators need to be extremely careful when obtaining information, to make sure the information they gather is admissible in court and legal.

Private Investigators Can Arrest People:

Private investigators do not have the legal authority to arrest people even if they find incriminating information against someone or evidence that proves their guilt. Instead, private investigators provide information to law enforcement to further help a case and serve justice.

PIs Are Only Hired to Catch Cheating Spouses & Dangerous Criminals:

While private investigators are used in these instances, these aren't the only types of cases they handle. In fact, investigators are hired more often to investigate people for insurance and workers' compensation fraud, to perform background checks, find missing persons, and help attorneys build cases



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