



SOME INFORMATION TO THINK ABOUT IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING HIRING A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR

Companies, government entities and individuals hire private investigators every day to perform a variety of tasks. Many people have considered hiring a private investigator but they are hesitant because they are not aware of the fees, responsibilities of the investigator or they have other questions regarding what types of services can be performed. Sometimes, a misunderstanding of who the private investigator is and what he or she can do to help your situation can cause additional confusion.

Here is some information to consider if you are thinking about hiring a private investigator, but have never done so. We hope you will find this helpful in making your decision.

The terms "investigator" and "investigations" derive from a Latin term: vestigare. The word means, literally, the searching, gathering, and organization of facts. The good investigator does not engage in opinion, guesswork, supposition, or speculation. He or she gathers and reports on the facts, the nature of which is dependent upon the focus of investigation as outlined by the CLIENT.

A private investigator is, as the name implies, a private individual engaging in investigative work. The Private Investigator is not a public law enforcement officer or federal agent. A Private Investigator has no rights of arrest or detention beyond the rights given all citizens under common law (popularly known as a "citizen's arrest.").

In general, the Private Investigator works independently of law enforcement agencies. However, he or she has an obligation to cooperate and assist law enforcement officers as does any other individual.

There is an assumption that hiring a P.I. investigator is difficult or somewhat mysterious. Actually, hiring a P.I. is just like hiring a lawyer or any other professional.

The professional private investigator offers specialized services and makes them available to individuals or organizations. The first step is to contact the investigative agency and speak with an investigator. At Accurate Investigative Services, we have investigators who specialize in several different areas. Our initial consultation is free and

it not only provides us with an indication of your needs and, it provides the client with information about how we can (or cannot) help. .

The second step is to actually hire the investigator. This will involve entering into a contract which specifies the expectations and obligations of each party (investigator and client). The signed contract, together with the retainer fee, will be returned to the agency and once the retainer fees are approved, a file will be opened and background work will begin on your investigation.

The third step is the actual investigation. We only work "one side" of the case. This means, as a general rule, that we do not contact the individual(s) who are the subject of the investigation and we will do our work as discretely as possible. Our work is done quietly, confidentially, and professionally. Unless our client requests an interim report, no information will be provided until our investigation has been concluded.

The fourth and final step is receiving the investigative report. The investigative report will contain the facts of our findings. It will be written in plain language and in some instances it will include a video tape, photographs or other physical evidence obtained during the investigation. The report will not contain opinion or speculative comments. When the investigation is inconclusive, you may find that the investigator has included suggestions for further handling or other avenues to take in resolving your case. The final report will conclude our work on behalf of the CLIENT for that particular case.

Some clients ask why investigators require a retainer before conducting any work. The answer is simple. Apart from this being a standard business practice in the private investigations industry, it makes good sense. By requiring the retainer fee in advance we are able to keep costs relatively low since we don't have overhead costs like fees for attorneys and collection agencies. In the case of matrimonial or custody disputes, funds are often "frozen" by clients who fear that their spouse might drain funds from joint accounts. Additionally we are committed to confidentiality in our work and it would not be good for either of us if we had to initiate a lawsuit to recover unpaid fees.

Like most attorneys, your initial consultation with us is free. Unlike most attorneys, we rarely bill the client for our client contact time after the retainer fee has been paid and the investigation has been opened.

**There are some exceptions, such as when a case requires us to appear at court on behalf of a client, etc.*

REJECTING A CASE

While we are certainly open to accepting most cases brought to us, we occasionally find ourselves rejecting an assignment (no matter how much money may be offered). If we are asked to investigate one of our clients or client companies, or if we are asked to investigate a matter which we know is already under investigation by one of our client companies, we will not take the case. Also, it should be noted that most of our clients

engage our services for legitimate reasons, every once in a while we encounter one who's motives are suspect (i.e., stalking, assault, blackmail, or other criminal intent). Here at Accurate Investigative Services, we place great emphasis on getting to know our clients beforehand. If it appears that a prospective client is not being truthful or if his intentions may be unlawful or harmful, we reserve the right at our sole discretion to reject the case. We also reserve the right to reject an assignment if there is any other potential ethical issues or conflicts of interest.

LAWFUL AND PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS

Contrary to some popular television depictions of private investigators we do not use any unlawful means or methods to obtain our information. There are very strict standards, imposed by both the industry regulations in New York and Florida (where we are licensed to work), and which we adhere to and comply with at all times. You might also be interested to know that Accurate Investigative Services is a member of the Better Business Bureau and we are proud to uphold their highest standards.

THE SECRETS OF PRIVATE INVESTIGATION

Whenever we have a successful case, we are often asked; "How did you do it? What's your secret?" Well, if we told you it wouldn't be a secret. Would it?

The fact is that the majority of the time we work with public records. We use a variety of other resources and we do a lot of leg work. Sometimes the case may call for surveillance; however, every type of case requires skill and expertise. There are also resources available to us as "licensed" investigators which aren't available to the general public. If we disclosed our sources and methods, we may inadvertently aid someone who is "up to no good," as the old saying goes. and we're just not going to do that.

WHAT YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR IN A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR

1. ARE THEY LICENSED?

Most states require private investigators to be licensed. Our firm is fully licensed in New York (Lic. #11000044827) and, in Florida (Lic. #A-2400008) All of the investigators here are full time employees, authorized to conduct private investigations under the laws of both states. If your state requires P.I.'s to be licensed, and the investigator you are talking to doesn't have one (or show proof of temporary state approval), don't use them. They are engaging in unlicensed practice.

2. ARE THEY INSURED?

Accurate Investigative Services, Inc. is fully insured and bonded as required by law. This is another important question and provides the CLIENT with some comfort in the event the investigation is done in an unlawful, improper or damaging manner.

3. WHAT EXPERIENCE DO THEY HAVE IN THE TYPE OF INVESTIGATION I NEED TO HAVE DONE?

Here at AIS, we have experienced investigators with specialized expertise. You don't want to hire someone for a surveillance who has no experience or training in this field. AIS makes sure that each case is assigned to the most experienced investigator, with the background and expertise essential to properly handle your needs.

4. DOES YOUR INVESTIGATOR HAVE A GOOD REPUTATION?

Ask for references or credentials. If your investigator is at a loss to provide names of clients who have used the firm, it is possible that they do shoddy work or engage in illegal practices. Here at Accurate Investigative Services, we pride ourselves on having a solid track record of honesty and integrity, and we get results. Unlike most other investigative firms, we are a member of the Better Business Bureau and you can check our record for yourself.

If you still have questions, call our office at 888-479-7525 and one of our representatives will be glad to help....

“The call is free..... and so is our initial consultation”