

BowTieLawyer

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Secret Spy (Hiring a Private Eye)

One of the perks of being an evil divorce attorney is you get to be acquainted with a number of other really cool jobs. This post is about Private Investigators (PIs), when to use them and what they need.



Sim on Howden /
freedigitalphotos.net

I have previously posted of some of the potential warning signs of an [affair. \(link\)](#) If you have suspected your spouse may be having an affair it may be wise to hire a PI. A PI can follow your spouse, take pictures of their whereabouts and identify third persons that your spouse may be with. In addition to adultery, a PI may also be useful in locating hard-to-find persons/witnesses and even completing service of process. PIs can also play a role in custody cases in documenting the other parent's living conditions, if a third-party is involved in that parent's comings and goings.

PIs have come a long way from hiding in the bushes snapping pictures, though it still happens. They now use a variety of means of surveillance, GPS tracking abilities and computer forensics which can discover that nothing has been deleted!

Here's a starter list to provide a PI in the event you choose to hire one.

- Pictures of who they are to follow.
- Pictures and tag # of the car(s) they are to follow.
- Where that person works and normal office hours.
- Where that person hangs out, works out and/or chills out.
- The usual routine; ie: on Wednesdays he always goes to Buffalo Wild Wings.
- Address of the home and anywhere else the person may be staying.
- List of suspected paramour(s).
- Any and all information you have about paramour(s).
- Your usual routine, too. Knowing this the PI may be able to catch you-know-who where they are when you are at the Wednesday evening service.

Talk to the PI about fees. These are not covered in attorney fees. PIs usually charge a retainer and hourly rate and for mileage. Be careful about having your spouse followed to New Orleans, it may not be worth the goods. Also, make sure the PI generates a report, pictures and will testify in Court, if necessary.

The use of a PI is discoverable in litigation, which means if you use one and are asked about it you must disclose it. Stay tuned for a blog about what to do if you think you are being followed.

Matthew Thompson is a family law attorney that leaves the private investigation to the PIs, but does not

and videos from the investigations, as it is required by his job!

Follow the blog: [BowTieLawyer](#) Visit the website: [Thompson Law Firm](#)

You may also contact Matthew with your family law case, question or concern at (601) 850-8000 or Matthew@wmtlawfirm.com.



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