

In this business, it's impossible to avoid human drama, after all we are hired to gather intel that may have very damaging consequences. Although not all cases are dangerous, investigators oftentimes are placed in situations that pose risks. In many cases, whether as the subject of an investigation or otherwise, private investigations involve dealing with criminal elements. Most of a private investigator's job is completely behind the scenes or off the radar. Thus, it is not very often that they confront suspects or get burned after the case has concluded. It does happen, and when it does, it can have devastating effects. Not only to the person being investigated but to the PI as well.

Every investigation is different, but the job of the private investigator is always the same – to research facts and discover the truth. We do this by conducting interviews, analyzing records, searching for clues, doing Internet research, conducting surveillance, collecting evidence, verifying facts, observing suspects, taking videos and photos, preparing reports, appearing in court, and providing testimony.

Many people believe that private investigators are often on the wrong side of the law. Not to mention, people do not generally take kindly to an investigator poking around in their private business. Many investigators encounter dangerous individuals that have committed crimes, which is why they are being tracked down in the first place. PIs can receive death threats, be placed in physical danger, and be the subject to various forms of harassment.

Private citizens usually take what they know about private investigators from movies and television. We are typically cast in a seedy light that we are in the shadows tracking a person's every move for the sole purpose to intimidate in a harmful manner. The media tends to enforce narratives about private investigators who will find the truth at any cost.

Private investigators have been known to have their Google reviews or testimonials flooded with baseless accusations of incompetence. Make sure your detective agency uses ironclad contracts that detail protective measures that hold you harmless from damages, losses, cost or expenses, including attorney fees, suffered or incurred in connection with and/or that arise out of claims based on investigative findings.

Even though our job is to help individuals and businesses by protecting society from potentially dangerous people. Investigators may be exposed in a harmful way that present risks that are very challenging to overcome. It is not uncommon to receive death threats or be intimidated by the media. These situations pose risks not only to the investigator but the livelihood of the detective agency.

Imagine you are hired for a seemingly simple case to locate the Subject and document their level of activity. Along the way, the investigation uncovers the volatile past of the Subject. You must decide whether to remain within the scope of the assignment or end the case altogether. If you choose the later, the case concludes, and the desired evidence is handed over to your client.

It is important to understand that as investigators we answer to our clients and our evidence remains in their control. Despite our personalized attention and objective methodology, private investigators may not be able to deliver all the answers involving all the particulars of a case. Subsequently, litigation can take a year or more to be heard in a court of law. At times, unforeseen events unravel and without logic or warning the investigator is thrust into the limelight. Especially when it's discovered that an investigator was documenting activities that could overlap with another crime.

Investigations remain indispensable to righting the wrongs by revealing the truth. While it is difficult to be prepared for the unknown it is noteworthy to think about certain factors. There are always two sides to a case and the paying client may not always be the right side. Always remember at the same time you are working within the scope of your assignment you are gathering intel that could ruffle the feathers of others. Everything a private investigator does must be done by the book to ensure that the evidence they find can be admissible in both civil and criminal trials.

When it comes to private investigations, the intelligence that is being sought will ultimately affect lives. It is a tall order, and a big responsibility to get the client the information they seek. It is vital to have procedures in place to safeguard the exposure of the investigator and the client. In the end, the results of the investigation are not always in our control.

Be Aware of Risks Arising from Investigations

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