

Hiring a Private Investigator

The following are some tips in hiring a private investigator.

- **Make sure they have a license!**

The vast majority of states require that anyone engaging the practice of investigations be licensed. A Private investigator should be able to produce a copy of such a license immediately for you. Note: there are many companies offering services on the internet which do not qualify as “investigations” but really should be. These companies are completely unregulated and what they give you is whatever they want. Most of these companies are “information brokers” who have access to databases of public records, like telephone numbers, address directories, voters registration filings, etc. These companies offer “background checks” that are nothing more than database searches of old public records.

- **Do you need to meet with the P.I.?**

No, not unless you want to. Much of what we do can be done quickly and with a minimal amount of inconvenience and the formality of a meeting is usually not necessary.

- **Always get a contract.**

Like any other service, you should get a contract that indicates what you are hiring the P.I. for and what you will get in return. If they cannot or will not present you with a contract, hang up the phone.

- **Experience means everything!**

Some private investigators have little or no investigative background. It is important that you know the qualifications and experience of the investigator that will be working on your case.

- **Licensed and Bonded.**

Being bonded is almost always a requirement to get a PI license. If you see a PI advertising that they are “bonded” that does not mean that they are a better investigator or that they offer you some special protection or status.

- **Are they insured?**

Keep in mind that the private investigator who you hire is working for you, as your agent. If he or she is working on your case and they damage someone’s property, get in a car accident, presents false information, etc., etc., etc., they should have ample insurance to cover any losses that arise.

- **Always remember...**

You get what you pay for...