

Difficult Scenario Questions for the Private Investigator

Question 1

During a telephone call with **STEVE**, he tells you that his 19 year-old son, **ADAM**, in Durango, Colorado, was in a house and was hit in the jaw.

ADAM immediately walked out of the house and was hit in the face by another guy.

He has no idea of who the assailants were and learned from his doctor that his jaw had been broken – his mouth was wired shut for one month and as a direct result of the injury was unable to work for about six weeks.

Durango Police Department conducted the investigation and conducted numerous interviews with party-goers as well as the assailants (who would not cooperate). The police department told **ADAM** they weren't going to file charges against anyone because they were unable to determine who broke his jaw.

STEVE asks you about a potential lawsuit and, if so, against whom.

Question 2

You receive a telephone call from an attorney who represents **BILL**, owner of a 300-person company. **HEATHER**, who worked directly for **BILL**, has filed a lawsuit naming him as a defendant as it relates to inappropriate sexual behavior. **BILL**'s attorney has already interviewed him and there's reason to believe that three other employees – **NATE**, **KATHY**, and **BOB** – might have information that could help **BILL**. Who is first to be interviewed and why.

Question 3

A potential client calls you, tells you he is going to recover his car that his former girlfriend refuses to return. It is titled and registered in his name only, they broke up

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about 40 days ago, and she does not return telephone calls, text messages or emails. The car will be at her apartment complex where there is surface parking. One of his friends will drop him off; he'll pick the car up and leave. He wants you there just in case things don't go as planned.

The following Tuesday evening you meet him at the apartment complex, 11:00 p.m., he shows you a copy of the vehicle title and registration. No one is around, appears to be a relatively safe operation. What is the one thing you might want to talk to him about prior to or immediately after removing the car from the parking lot.

Question 4

You receive a telephone call from someone who tells you their car has been missing for approximately two months. The owner reported the car stolen to the local police department; however, it is later found by the owner within five miles of her home, it appears to have been driven approximately 100 miles, other than that is in good shape, she contacts the police department and drives the car home. She calls you wanting assistance to determine who stole her car. This is a case that has almost zero chance of solving; keeping that in mind, you tell her that and what else might you suggest she do.

Question 5

You get a call from a guy who tells you he loaned his truck to a friend while both of them were residing in Texas and now he refuses to return it. He believes the guy now lives in the Denver area and he would like you to locate the truck and take it to an unknown destination until he can come out from Texas to get the truck. What are some things you'd like to talk to this guy about before you decide to take this case?

Question 6

MARGO calls you on the telephone from Oklahoma. She wants you to find a guy in Wheat Ridge, Colorado in order to have a subpoena served. Through additional questioning you find out that this guy is a co-conspirator (with her) in Norman,

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Oklahoma who failed to appear his first court hearing. She wants him subpoenaed so he can come and testify on her behalf. It was at the request of her attorney that she make a phone call to a Colorado private investigator. How would you advise her concerning this issue?

Question 7

A potential client calls you and tells you the following: *I need to find out if my stepson is clean from drugs. A small inheritance is in the future, but we wish to ensure he is not still doing drugs before he is considered for a future distribution.* How would you handle this investigation.

Question 8

You've been contacted by a plumbing company who has a contract for several hundred tract homes in the Aurora area. His concern is that at nighttime someone's coming back to the jobsite and stealing copper and other plumbing type supplies. He wants you to put together an investigation on the best way to determine who's involved. This particular area where these houses are being built is owned by a private developer. How would you handle this investigation.

Question 9

A potential client calls you and tells you (the same old story you've heard a hundred times) that her ex-husband, father of their two small children, every Friday night stops at the local bar approximately five miles from his home and drinks and drinks and then drives home. He has been convicted several years ago of driving under the influence and another arrest for an alcohol-related offense could land him in jail for several years. Come up with a plan that in all likelihood would get local police involved. THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX – BE CREATIVE.

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Question 10

Potential client calls you and says he has a judgment for \$130,000 against a local paper company in the Denver area. He's interested in assets. The judgment is against **MR. BADGUY** and his company, **Badguys R Us, Inc.** **MR. BADGUY** drives a newer model van with the company name on it. How would you handle this?

Question 11

Insurance client provides you the following scenario:

1. Last year they spent \$3 million in soft tissue injuries to one medical provider which provides chiropractic services, massages, MRI's and counseling.
2. Insurance company has patient records. Your job is to find those patients and interview them to determine what they remember.

Discussion: Pros and cons of this approach; come up with a better idea.

Question 12

HEATHER is single and is having an affair with Jack who is married to Brooke. **HEATHER** is ticked off that Jack on numerous occasions has told her he will leave his wife but three years later hasn't done so.

HEATHER would like you to put together a game plan that essentially would inform Brooke that he is seeing a woman outside the marriage (**HEATHER**). And, like all clients concerning these types of issues, **HEATHER** wants no fingerprints or anything leading to her.

How would you handle this?

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Question 13

A potential client wants you to locate former employees that were employed with a now-defunct construction company, which was located at 2450 Larimer Street, Denver, CO, between the years **1971** and **1982**. Client research suggests that the company owner (name and date of birth available) died in **1990**. Client research suggests that online records with the **Colorado Secretary of State's Office** are too old and not available online. How would you respond to this request?

Question 14

You have been asked to obtain a DNA sample from a 60 year old farmer who resides in a very rural community – surveillance is not an option. How would you obtain that sample?

Question 15

Potential client calls and tells you he works for a large corporation with multiple locations in the Denver metropolitan area. He has learned that a disgruntled former employee from Portland has made threats against the company and upper management and is staying at a Denver motel. Police have confirmed the disgruntled employee is staying the Bunny Hotel located at 1111 East Colfax Avenue, Denver, Colorado. A local security firm is conducting 24-hour, round-the-clock surveillance. What kind of ideas can you provide to assist this potential client other than having 24-hour a day surveillance?

Question 16

You receive a telephone call from the president of a small landscape company. He's been subcontracted to perform landscaping at a large hospital facility where construction and landscaping are taking place. The general contractor has not paid him since May (it's now July) and he would like some background investigation concerning the owner of the general contractor. How would you respond to this request?

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Question 17

You get a telephone call from an attorney who represents a woman involved in a divorce. The attorney's in the process of reviewing husband's bank statements for the last 24 months. His client is certain that husband has been hiding money and may have investments that have not been disclosed to her nor are they in any of the financial documents in the pending divorce case. The soon-to-be ex-husband has been with the same employer the last twenty years.

What would you advise the attorney to do and why.

Question 18

You receive a telephone call from a potential client who resides on the east coast whose 25 year old son is having some mental issues, may be gay, appears to have hooked up with a 24 year old man in Lakewood, CO by the name of **HUMPTY DUMPTY** whom he believes is residing with his parents. He provides you vehicle information concerning his son along with potential employment information.

Dad is concerned about his son's safety and mental health. How would you conduct this investigation?

Question 19

BILL and **MARY** are divorced and have a one year old son named **SAMMY**. **BILL** has a girlfriend named **HEATHER** and they live together.

Several weeks ago, **MARY** had a restraining order issued to **HEATHER** on behalf of one year-old **SAMMY**. The restraining order clearly states that **HEATHER** is not to be within 100 yards of **SAMMY**.

BILL takes **SAMMY** every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. to preschool which is approximately five miles from his home. He doesn't see his son again until the following Friday at about 4:00 p.m. when he picks him up.

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HEATHER leaves for work 11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.

MARY believes that **HEATHER** continues to live in the house with **BILL** during his parenting time with their son, **SAMMY**.

MARY calls you on a Sunday, tells you there's a hearing set for the following Wednesday. In addition to the information already provided above, she tells you that her husband **BILL** parks his vehicle in the garage where he lives and has tinted windows. The vehicle he drives is a black four-door Jeep and the vehicle **HEATHER** drives is a two-door green Mustang which she parks in front of the home.

How many investigators are needed to determine if **HEATHER** is in violation of a restraining order, what role would each investigator play, and how would you set up your surveillance?

Question 20

You're working on behalf of a client who lives in Montrose, Colorado whose son is recovering from drugs, alcohol, and lots of court issues. Her son is 40 years old, unemployed (although allegedly looking for work), does not have a valid driver's license, gets around on a bicycle, and lives in the area of 25th and Federal in what the client describes as a "flop house". This is a place where a number of adult males and females rent a room by the week, etc. Only form of transportation is RTD. Client has a couple issues she's interested in.

1. What exactly are the living conditions where her son is residing?
2. Is he attending AA meetings, making court appearances, looking for employment, and addressing his drug issues?

Client has a \$3,000 check for her son that a family friend is going to give him.

How would you advise this woman concerning this issue?

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Question 21

A 28 year old woman called the office and told me her parents died of carbon monoxide poisoning in **June 2014**. They sold their home in Westminster in **March 2014** and had moved their belongings to a home they rented in Montrose, Colorado. At the time of her parent's death she did not believe a will existed.

Her father dabbled with the purchase of cars and selling them (not as a dealer) and her mom worked at a local paint store as a sales clerk. When they died, they owned a 2013 Lexus and a 2010 Jeep Wagoneer.

She needs assistance in locating any bank accounts her parents might have had and any other assets in their names, such as credit cards, etc.

How would you conduct this investigation?

Question 22

You have been contacted by a 25 year old female who would like you to locate her father she had never met. Part one of this investigation is what are you going to counsel her about and why, and what other questions are you going to ask and why?

Part 2 – She provides you with enough information and after some stellar research (way to go) you are certain you have located the right guy. He is 47 years old, married, works for **METLIFE** as an insurance agent, you have his Denver home and business addresses, his cell, home and work telephone numbers, and email address.

How are you going to make contact?

Question 23

You get a telephone call from **JANE** who is 55 years old who tells you she's been dating **DICK** who is in his late 50's for the last eight months. Two months ago they mutually

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decided to take a break from one another. He told her that during that break time he had no problem if she were to see other men.

- She wants you to keep him under surveillance Friday and Saturday night.
- What are some of the things you want to talk with her about prior to either accepting or declining this investigation.

Question 24

HEATHER and **STEVE** finally get one overnight together away from their offices. They live in a ranch home in Lakewood. Wednesday night at 5:00 p.m., they leave work, they go to Georgetown, and return the following day about 3:00 p.m. They walk into their home and it's been burglarized. The bedroom and other rooms are tossed, expensive purses, several guns, and cash totaling about \$7,000 has been removed. Entry appears to have been through the sliding glass door.

- She's a bit puzzled. According to neighbors, their homes were not burglarized.

What questions might you ask her to determine why their house was burglarized and others not.

Question 25

JIMMY is the Loss Prevention Manager for **Good Stuff**, a national not-for-profit group that collects toys, clothing, etc., from various locations nationwide. Each state has several distribution centers as well as numerous pick-up locations where their personnel in **Good Stuff** trucks picks up the items and takes them to the local distribution center.

One of the ways local distribution centers keep track of items picked up during the day is by weight. Before the truck leaves it is weighed, when the truck comes back it is weighed. 7,000 pounds is the average weight when a driver makes 14 to 16 various stops along a particular route during the day. So, 7,000 is the norm and only 4,000

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pounds is coming in; well, it would appear something is missing. **Good Stuff** has also recently discovered, at least in the Denver area, that a lot of the higher ticket items that have been on a particular truck over the years don't seem to be as plentiful as they once were.

- **JIMMY** wants to hire you to follow a particular truck around his routes to determine whether or not collectibles already on the truck are being off-loaded somewhere.
- What are some things that you're going to talk to him about as it relates to this particular potential investigation.