

NEWS

Information & Insights from

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Parenting Time Investigative Alternatives

A separation agreement or a divorce decree can set out the terms and conditions of each parent's time with children, but no separation agreement or divorce decree can guarantee that the children are well and safely cared for during visitation.

An order may require that a parent refrain from drinking for the 24 hours prior to scheduled parenting time.

An order may require that a particular third party not be present during scheduled parenting time.

An order may prohibit a parent from leaving children with another party, even a relative, during scheduled parenting time.

Real Cases

But all of those orders were violated in recent cases investigated by my office, and the violation of orders is not the only

way that children may be endangered during visitations.

More Real Cases

Children are picked up in a car driven by a parent who does not hold a valid driver's license and insurance – in fact, may have lost the license because of DUI convictions.

A spouse supposedly is taking children on other day trips, but instead, she's taking them to work, where they are left in the care of some disinterested party.

A spouse picks up his daughter from daycare and promptly drops her off with his parents, while he visits his girlfriend.

A third party in the household of a parent has a long record of drug and alcohol abuse and frequently is left alone with the children during parenting time.

All of these cases also were investigated by my office.

Many separated or divorced parents take care to secure the health, welfare, and safety of their

children, but the ways that some parents can violate visitation rights to the detriment of their children seen endless.

That where I come in.

My Services

We offer a wide range of professional investigative services to a parent who has good reason to be concerned about the conduct of the other.

I mention "good reason," because mere suspicion, usually based on the psychological, emotional, and financial turmoil of a divorce, is no reason for my involvement or the involvement of any other professional and experienced private investigator.

Since Colorado does not license, regulate, or otherwise monitor the conduct and performance of private investigators, intervention by unqualified investigators without good reason may be all too common in our state.

There are serious issues of law, ethics, and discretion at work in parenting time investigations.

The Surveillance Option

Much of the bad conduct by a parent during visitation is blatantly evident and subject to careful surveillance.

A video or photographic record may not always be possible, but when it is not, evidence via a well-detailed report can be prepared.

Surveillance must take into account the type of neighborhood, street traffic, and other factors that can have an influence on tactics, procedures, even the number of investigators required.

Where a child will be transported by the parent who is exercising parenting time rights, two or more vehicles is the norm in order to establish and maintain contact. More than one location may need to be covered.

Also, a single instance of bad conduct usually isn't enough. We may need to establish a pattern that will stand up to court scrutiny.

The Background Option

No one ever knows everything there is to know about someone else. In the case of a third party who may be present during parenting time, nothing at all may be known, and that includes the family of the parent at issue.

At a minimum, a background investigation would include statewide arrest records, civil and criminal court records, Federal court records, and motor vehicle

records, both in Colorado and other states going back 10 years.

Colorado provides statewide arrest records. Some states do not. Federal court records are important because serious drug charges often are filed by Federal agencies. Civil records are important because restraining orders are filed in the civil division of county court and this may be the jurisdiction of other domestic-related cases, as well.

As noted, motor vehicle records are important. We'd be checking the current status of a driver's license, and we would be looking for DUI citations, a history of tickets for excessive speed, any record that suggests a pattern of unsafe driving. In some cases, we may need to verify current employment, including a work location and telephone number.

All Due Care

Our primary responsibility is to our client and to the children, but we also have an obligation to make sure that our background research is not unduly invasive and that our surveillance work is not unduly intrusive.

To that end, no work is undertaken without a substantial and detailed interview with a prospective client and with the knowledge and approval of the client's attorney or at least on the advice of an attorney.

After all, the product of our efforts must be both good and useful.



Discreet, Thorough, Accurate, Creative

4 Former Investigator for the Denver and Jefferson District Attorney's Offices

4 Police misconduct and related investigations for Central City, Breckenridge, Fowler, and Fort Lupton. And Risk Assessment investigations for Denver.

4 The only private investigative agency in Colorado to be hired by the Denver Election Commission to investigate allegations of campaign fraud and kickbacks.

4 Broad knowledge of criminal & civil law, insurance regulations, and common sense acquired through 30 years of investigative experience.

4 One of the few investigative firms in Colorado to carry \$1 million in liability insurance.

4 More than 30,000 civil and criminal cases investigated.

4 President and Principal Instructor, Private Investigators Academy of the Rockies.

4 Member:

Professional Private Investigators
Association of Colorado
President 2005-2006

World Association of Detectives
World Investigators Network

Intelnet
National Council of Investigation
and Security Services
California Association of Legal
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4 Associate Member, Colorado and Denver
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