

This Issue:
Focus on Surveillance

Arkansas Investigations



"We Find Answers"

www.arkansas-investigations.com

Investigative News

Contact Us:

Phone:
501-605-0360 (24 hour line)
501-372-2202 (Receptionist)
501-753-2001 (Satellite Office)

eMail:
general:
arkinv@centurytel.net
info@arkansas-investigations.com

Investigators:
Michael J. West, CFE, CLEI,
Director of Investigations
michaeljwest@centurytel.net
Stacy Lynch, Investigator
sml@arkansas-investigations.com
Christina Carr, Investigator
cmc@arkansas-investigations.com

Website:
www.arkansas-investigations.com

Surveillance – What is it?

One simple definition¹ of surveillance is simply "the monitoring of behavior". Not all surveillance is to determine who is cheating on who. Surveillance serves a lot of benefits although; by it's own nature, it has a rather negative or sinister overtone. Surveillance has been practiced since ancient times. Sun Tzu wrote about The Use of Spies in his 5th century "The Art of War" and it's still practiced today, right here, right in your own community.

Yes, we do a lot of video and photographic surveillance, some static and some mobile. Some of it is related to infidelity investigations. Being convinced that your 'significant other' is not where he/she is supposed to be is one thing. Surveillance can prove exactly what they are doing. Finding out what conditions exist at your ex-spouse's home when your child is with them is a very frequent use of surveillance.

Aside from infidelity investigations, surveillance can be used to help prove that someone isn't really injured when they claim to be. We've had many opportunities to demonstrate that a person who claims they can't walk without crutches is actually not injured and is only attempting to defraud their insurance company (or YOU). Think of it. This is one reason your insurance premiums are so high. We've saved insurance companies literally millions of dollars

by catching people when they don't expect to be caught.

Other uses for surveillance include: employers watching over their computer systems to make sure they are used for authorized purposes only. We've had occasions where we had to find an employee who was intentionally sabotaging his employer, putting the entire company and the other employees at risk.

Sometimes parents want to make sure that their kids are safe. We're often contacted during the time of the year when high school students are going to proms. It's not uncommon for kids to stay out late or all night during those events and parents want to make sure they are where they are supposed to be. There are devices that can send you an email/text message when your child's car exceeds the speed limit. Surveillance devices can also be used to check on 'GrandMa' who is in the nursing home. In today's environment you can't be too careful.

Surveillance might also be for data mining or profiling purposes. Companies sometimes want to know what their senior leadership is up to. Covert surveillance might be one way to find out.

Business often use surveillance to determine if their employees are being honest. Bank security



cameras can be used to catch robbery suspects, but they can also catch the cashier who wants to pocket a bundle of cash as well.

A good surveillance operative is patient and pretty much non-descript. They can blend into any situation and play virtually any role. Look at the guy/gal sitting next to you in the theater. They might be 'on the job'. Their equipment can be pretty basic and it can be really complex. It just depends on the situation. We use a variety of cameras, low light devices, recording devices, disguises and tools to get you the information you need. After all, if you have a question: "We Find Answers"TM



Sample Surveillance Photos

FREE CONSULTATION

Call 501-605-0360 today!

Conducting Your Own Surveillance

I'll put it short and sweet: **DON'T!**

We're not lawyers and we're not going to give you legal advice, but if you are reading this then you have the ability to read the law.

Several Arkansas Statutes deal with things like this. Look up the statutes involving harassment and stalking. These samples are picked from the internet and may not be current, however they serve our purpose here.

Section 5-71-229. Stalking. 1995.

(a)(1) A person commits stalking in the first degree if he purposely engages in a course of conduct that harasses another person and makes a terroristic threat with the intent of placing that person in

imminent fear of death or serious bodily injury or placing that person in imminent fear of the death or serious bodily injury of his or her immediate family

§ 5-71-208. Harassment. 1975. Amended 1995.

(6) Places the person under surveillance by remaining present outside his or her school, place of employment, vehicle, other place occupied by the person, or residence, other than the residence of the defendant, for no purpose other than to harass, alarm, or annoy.

As you can see, following your ex-spouse or cheating boyfriend can lead to these or other charges. Don't do it. The law allows a licensed

private investigator certain latitudes that you don't have. You might also find out that the information you gain by yourself might not be admitted in court.

Besides, we're professionals. We do this all the time. We have thousands of dollars in equipment that may be waiting for the right situation. Also, we're trained to do this job.

Your own research? Sure, you could go on-line and pay to find out information through one of those on-line search engines. Good luck. We get calls all the time from people who have sent hundreds of dollars on them and never found out anything. Now we have to charge them again when we could have saved them money in the first place.