

Questions for the Private Investigator

Question 1

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 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 2

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 3

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?

Questions for the Private Investigator

Question 4

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 Storeman, 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 5

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 6

A guy in his early sixties meets with you at your office and tells you he's married and has a romantic relationship with a 24 year old woman who is pressuring him to leave his wife. He needs ideas on how to get out of this relationship with this young woman. He suggests placing her under surveillance to determine whether or not she is seeing other men and then speak with her about his findings. How would you handle this particular situation.

Question 7

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

Questions for the Private Investigator

particular area where these houses are being built is owned by a private developer. How would you handle this investigation.

Question 8

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.

Question 9

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 10

A potential client calls and tells you the neighbor who's renting a house across the street told him he sells drugs during the day and into the evening and his observations confirm what his neighbor has told him. Local cops don't seem to be interested. What might you suggest to assist this potential client?

Question 11

Please review the question below, if you could ask ONE question to this potential client what it might be?

Questions for the Private Investigator

My client is a private finance company making business loans. He made a loan to a Denver area company that fell into default. They entered into a Forbearance Agreement which also defaulted. There is now a lawsuit pending in New York and my client suspects that the principal of the company has organized new companies and is doing work (road construction and line painting) with the new companies. They may also have obtained licenses to do this work and/or obtained public projects which may be of record. In papers submitted yesterday in court, the principal (guarantor) said that a former employee has started a company that is now doing the work the borrowers/defendants had been doing. My client would like investigative work done to discover any such companies. In addition he would like the principal/guarantor monitored for a week to see where he is working. Is this a project for you? Please call so we can discuss the scope and cost of such a project.

Question 12

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 13

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.

Questions for the Private Investigator

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?

Question 14

A potential client wants you to locate former employees that were employed with a now-defunct Colorado construction company 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 15

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 16

You've just been hired by a 34 year old woman as it relates to an investigation involving the activity of her husband. Her father-in-law (her husband's father) will be responsible for paying your bill and insists on getting a copy of the report generated to your client. How do you handle this?

Question 17

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

Questions for the Private Investigator

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 18

You receive a telephone call from **STEVE** who owns a very large warehouse where he grows marijuana plants that was broken into the previous evening. Local law enforcement has just left the area after taking the necessary report information. **STEVE** tells you the following:

1. At about 2:45 a.m. this morning, outside cameras captured on video an unidentified van and two men break through the outside door and enter the facility.
2. Inside cameras were unable to capture as much activity inside the warehouse – he believes the bad guys were aware of interior camera placement.
3. He claims to be missing over 60 plants, outside cameras show the bad guys carrying plastic trash bags (the 50-gallon size) from the inside of the building and place them in the van. The van then leaves.
4. Two key employees failed to show up at work this morning, they are not answering their phones nor are they responding to text messages.
5. He wants you to conduct surveillance at the homes of the two employees whom he believes are responsible for the burglary and find out if they are moving plastic trash bags from one location to another – he thinks his plants might be contained within these bags.

How would you handle this situation and what further questions would you ask the caller?

Questions for the Private Investigator

Question 19

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?

Question 20

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 21

This came to me in the form of an email.

My "fiancé", **KATHY WILLIAMS**, has been in Malaysia for about two months attempting to gain an inheritance to which she claimed to be the inheritor. About two weeks ago I attempted to wire money on her behalf to another client of her lawyer there so he could get the funds and bring them back to establish accounts for the inheritance. The security folks of the financial firm wanted more information about her, so I provided the Texas Driver's license she gave me a copy of, and later the address she said she was living at in San Antonio, TX. The security folks identified about 6 items with the Id that led them to believe it was a fake id. They also could not find anyone with that name and

Questions for the Private Investigator

age in the state of Texas. In addition, the address she gave me had had a **KATHY WILLIAMS** living there up until several years earlier when she had passed away.

This has led me to believe that the individual I have been texting with, and had proposed to, but have not met, is not whom she claims to be. I would like to find out if there is anyone who actually meets the particulars, or if she is indeed a liar/fake. It is my understanding that she had a heart attack sometime after Tuesday May 5 at approximately 2:30am when I last heard from her, and when I contacted her lawyer on Friday by Email.

The information I have is:

KATHY WILLIAMS, Age 34, Height 5' 5", Birthdate 1-9-1986, 1131 E. Johnson, San Antonio Texas, she said she was a German citizen raised in the USA from age 12 by her Aunt, who passed away in February. The name I had for aunt was **MARY KAY**, name also **KRIS** (?), aunts phone number I had was 734 000 0000. However I could not find her with a directory search and never found an obituary for her in San Antonio.

Ms. **WILLIAMS** had a phone number of 303-000 0000, changed to 303-000 0000.

In addition, she was a porn actress under the name **DO ME** in **2011-2012**

Tattoos: Bird above right breast; bird on left bikini line; diamond on right bikini line; red flower on left shoulder blade

Piercings: Navel

What I believe I am asking for is essentially negative confirmation that such a person is using a fake persona, and as such attempting to claim an inheritance that is not hers.

1. How would you handle this?
2. Profile the caller.

Questions for the Private Investigator

Question 22

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, and appears to have hooked up with a 24 year old man in Lakewood, Colorado by the name of Humpty Dumpty.

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

Question 23

An HR Director for a 300-person machine shop several hours ago placed an employee, who is a machinist, on administrative/investigatory leave for bullying other employees. Her internal investigation has determined he should be terminated. A co-worker of the machinist just informed her that during previous conversations he (the machinist on leave), stated that if terminated for any reason he would come back to the place of employment with a gun.

The termination is scheduled to take place at the machine shop within three days.

What suggestions would you make to this person on handling this situation?

Question 24

A woman comes to your office and tells you her husband was arrested by the **Arvada Police Department** for solicitation of a prostitute during **September 2014** and spent the night in jail, the following morning made his appearance in front of the court, was advised of the charges, plead guilty, paid his fine and was released. Her husband told her that he had never been involved in any such activity in the past – that was his first time.

You accept the investigation, the first thing you do (at least at really should be the first thing you do) is get a copy of his arrest history through the **Colorado Bureau of**

Questions for the Private Investigator

Investigation. That document shows the date of arrest mentioned above but was not by the **Arvada Police Department** but by the **Denver Police Department** for solicitation of a prostitute. We've established one lie – there's a big difference and discrepancy of location between the **Arvada Police Department** and the **Denver Police Department**; and if the **Arvada Police Department** made the arrest and he spent the night in jail as you all know, that night in jail would have been spent at the **Jefferson County Detention Center**. I know you're going to do this next – you're going to order a copy of the police report issued by the **Denver Police Department**.

After you get the arrest report, you read (I'm paraphrasing) the arrest took place in the 3200 block of West Colfax, Denver, Colorado. An undercover operation took place by the **Denver Police Department**, a suspect (your client's husband) arrived at Room 205, met with the undercover officer for a sexual encounter, put \$200 on the nightstand and **HE** told the undercover officer that he would say nothing else until she was completely undressed. He was then placed under arrest.

Analyze this from two parts. Part one – based on that report, was there even probable cause to make an arrest. Part two – actually more important in this particular case (because you're not representing him in the criminal case), what might his words to the undercover officer tell you?

Question 25

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.

Questions for the Private Investigator

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 26

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?

Questions for the Private Investigator

Question 27

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 28

Your client has a judgment for \$15,000.00 against **BILL SMITH**. **SMITH** owns rental homes and collects \$7,500 monthly. How would you advise your client to collect?

Question 29

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 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?