

**YOUR EYE ON THE WORLD**



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**KNOWLEDGE EQUALS POWER**

## WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR WHEN HIRING AN INVESTIGATION COMPANY?

Whenever there is a need for timely information on a corporate or personal level, how does a company go about the process of finding honest, professional assistance?

Some criteria is fairly standard. Is the company licensed and do they meet state requirements? Are they insured? How long have they been in business? Who are their clients? What do these clients think of them?

These are the types of questions you must ask of any type of company you are thinking of hiring. However, with an investigation company, there are additional items to consider.

A private investigator can play a very important component in a legal matter or suit. Getting the "facts" is only part of the job. You should determine how a potential company presents these facts and how they discovered these facts as well as the company's legal expertise before the company is retained.

How a company collects and reports the information can mean the difference between a case and claim being settled to the client's benefit or having worthless information. This means reports are written in descriptive, narrative style, which covers all details and pertinent facts. Reports are also written in a format that makes them articles of evidence that a client will be confident in giving to the opposing counsel if the need arises.

In order to better serve, an investigations firm should be flexible, credible, professional, discreet, shrewd, and they should operate with a single goal: To secure the necessary relevant information needed by their clients in an expedient and cost effective manner.

There are five simple questions that you should ask when interviewing an investigative firm.

1. Who are you – are you a licensed company?
2. What are your credentials
3. Who are your clients?
4. What do your clients say about your services?

5. What type of work product do you produce?

A private investigative firm is always confidential, thorough and professional. They work within the laws of the state and are ethical. They provide facts that are substantiated and they keep the client updated as the case progresses.

In Texas, private investigators are licensed and regulated by the Private Security Bureau, a division of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/psb/>