



IAPI NEWSLETTER

IOWA ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS

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The Iowa Association of Private Investigators board has been busy putting together another great conference. I get so excited during the planning of the annual conferences and seeing what great speakers, topics and vendors will be attending. Once again our conference will be held at the Holiday Inn on Merle Hay Road on July 21st and 22nd. I want to acknowledge this hotel and all their hard work and accommodations they put forth year after year and making our conferences great experiences. They have been a joy to work with and we are honored to have our 2011 conference held here yet again.

This year we have put together some all inclusive rates that include the conference fee and hotel fees. This is for your convenience. You can make these payments by check or online by credit card at www.iowa-investigators.com. You can still make reservations through the hotel as well. 1-515-278-4755.

Don't forget to mention IAPI as the code to get the special rate they offer for our conference. We ask all members who travel to please stay at the hosting hotel. We have reserved a block of rooms to guarantee the very best rate available. However, if we don't fill these rooms, it does cost the association money.

I want to remind you all that **membership dues were due January 1st** and will be considered late and have a reinstatement fee of \$25.00 as of March 31st for any lapse in your membership. You should have received your renewal information in the mail. You can go online and make payment. This is a fast, secure way to pay your dues and it saves you the stamp.

Mark your calendars for our next board meeting located in the Indiana Board room at Holiday Inn on Merle Hay Road in Des Moines on Friday April 8th at 10:00am. Feel free to attend any of our board meetings to express your ideas and/or get to know your board. If you have any questions regarding the association, the profession, board meetings or the upcoming conference feel free to contact any of the Board Officers or the Board of Directors for your area. Any of us will be happy to answer your questions.

Don't forget to get signed up for the conference, make your reservations. You can check out the speakers and topics on the IAPI website. In closing, the association would like to ask that if any companies would like to donate items as door prizes or silent auction for the conference, to please contact Darwin Rittgers or Clare Reed. And as always thank you for being a member of the Iowa Association of Private Investigators.

Regards, Your President

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Husbands Who Earn Less Than Wives Are More Likely To Cheat

by Whitney Blair Wyckoff

Men who are financially dependent on their wives and live-in girlfriends are five times more likely to cheat than those who made the same amount of money, according to a study that looked at trends in infidelity.

But ladies, if your guy makes a lot less than you do, it doesn't mean you should call off the wedding — or hire a private eye — just yet.

"Don't take these results and panic and think they're directly applicable to you and your relationship," [Christin Munsch](#), a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at Cornell University and author of the study, tells Shots.

Munsch says that each relationship is still unique, and infidelity remains a relatively uncommon occurrence. About 7 percent of men and 3 percent of women cheated in the study's six-year period.

Nevertheless, Munsch says that the results may be counterintuitive. "It's not exactly rational," she says. "If you're economically dependent on someone, you probably shouldn't cheat on them."

Well, matters of the heart rarely adhere to hard-boiled logic. When a man makes less than his female partner, the discrepancy can challenge "the traditional notion of men as breadwinners," Munsch writes in her analysis of the results.

So some men may feel the need to prove their manliness on the sly. The trend is particularly strong in subgroups that may hold the idea of traditional masculinity in high regard, like Latino men, she found.

Women, on the other hand, were more faithful when they were financially dependent on their male partners.

In her research, Munsch looked at data from the [National Longitudinal Survey of Youth](#) taken from 2002 to 2007. She focused on married and cohabitating 18- to 28-year-olds who were together for longer than a year.

Freeloading men aren't the only troublemakers. Munsch's work, which was presented at the [American Sociological Association](#)'s annual meeting on Monday, also found that men were more likely to cheat when they made a lot more than their partners.

The safest matches, Munsch says, are those where each person made the same amount of money, and those where the husband made a little more.

The study also found that the more often people attend religious services, the more education they have and more satisfied they are with their relationships, the less likely they are to cheat.

Now, we did wonder how much to trust the answers of people responding to survey questions about adultery. Munsch concedes people probably aren't 100 percent honest about their infidelity. But the likelihood that some people failed to fess up about straying wouldn't undercut the study.

In fact, she tells Shots, the ability to detect a relationship between financial dependence and infidelity — even with the limitations of a survey — gives her confidence it exists "in the real world."

Her results haven't been published, but she says she'll submit them soon to a peer-reviewed journal.

Weld County private eye charged with stalking in unique case

By Kirk Mitchell
The Denver Post

A private investigator was arrested and charged with felony stalking recently in Weld County for doing what colleagues say is the backbone of their profession: surveillance.

Timothy Allan Stitt, 42, was charged in Weld County District Court for putting a tracking device on the car of Shantele Sherman in LaSalle last month.

Stitt admitted he was following Sherman at the behest of her estranged husband, Jeff Schudel. The two are in a child-custody dispute.

"I don't know if that's ever happened before," said Denver private investigator Ryan Ross, who writes a blog about private-investigator issues in Colorado. "The charges weren't specific to him using a GPS. The ramifications are much broader."

A prosecutor at the Weld County district attorney's office filed a stalking charge against Stitt after Sherman claimed she suffered severe emotional distress. Schudel, too, has been charged with stalking.

Assistant District Attorney Michael Rourke said he couldn't comment on Stitt's case out of fairness to him. Rourke said he was not aware of any private investigators ever being charged with stalking before.

A subsection of statute

Stitt was charged under a subsection of the stalking statute. People violate the law if they repeatedly follow, approach, contact, place under surveillance or make any form of communication with another person — or a member of that person's family — and cause him or her "serious emotional distress."

The statute does not require the complainant to receive professional counseling in order to prove the criteria are met.

Rourke said he believes private investigators should be concerned about the statute if they are causing people serious emotional distress.

But Ross said police also follow possible criminals, and that distresses them. Just like police, private investigators perform a legitimate service, he said.

"A lot of private investigators have cases that obligate them to follow somebody," Ross said. "When we get hired, it's not for prurient interests. It's to protect the life and safety of children."

In some cases, people hire private investigators to try to gather evidence that their spouse has a drinking problem or other habits that jeopardize their kids.

In Stitt's case, Schudel allegedly called his estranged wife and told her he had paid a lot of money to track her whereabouts, an arrest warrant affidavit says.

"Shantele stated that (her husband) knew exactly when she was out at night and when she was at work," the document says. "So if it takes three months or three years, these people will be watching how you care for our son."

GPS device under car

Sherman found a black metal GPS device with two green lights attached under her car. She said she was shaking.

There was no indication in the arrest affidavit that Sherman knew Stitt was following her until her husband called her.

Colorado lawmakers defined stalking as involving "highly inappropriate intensity, persistence and possessiveness, it entails great unpredictability and creates great stress and fear for the victim."

"It involves severe intrusions on the victim's personal privacy . . . as well as risks to security and safety of the victim."

When the detective interviewed Stitt, who has a business called Civil Task Force Investigations, Stitt acknowledged working for Schudel. He said Schudel paid him \$300 to put the GPS device under Sherman's car. He had been following Sherman for about two weeks.

Stitt declined to comment to The Denver Post.

Ross said there are as many as 500 private investigators in Colorado, which does not license them.

"PIs and clients don't want to have to guess what a police officer will do," Ross said. "If we know where the line is, we won't cross it."

REMSBURG V. DOCUSEARCH (Case Law in New Hampshire)

Thus, if a private investigator or information broker's (hereinafter "investigator" collectively) disclosure of information to a client creates a foreseeable risk of criminal misconduct against the third person whose information was disclosed, the investigator owes a duty to exercise reasonable care not to subject the third person to an un-reasonable risk of harm. The threats posed by stalking and identity theft lead us to conclude that the risk of criminal misconduct is sufficiently foreseeable so that an investigator has a duty to exercise reasonable care in disclosing a third person's personal information to a client. And we so hold. This is especially true when, as in this case, the investigator does not know the client or the client's purpose in seeking the information.

—a person may reasonably expect that the (Social Security) number will remain private. "On the public street, or in any other public place, [a person] has no legal right to be alone."

—A person's employment, where he lives, and where he works are exposures which we all must suffer. We have no reasonable expectation of privacy as to our identity or as to where we live or work. Our commuting to and from where we live and work is not done clandestinely and each place provides a facet of our total identity.

Intrusion Upon Seclusion

An investigator who sells personal information sells the information for the value of the information itself, not to take advantage of the person's reputation or prestige. The investigator does not capitalize upon the goodwill value associated with the information but rather upon the client's willingness to pay for the information. In other words, the benefit derived from the sale in no way relates to the social or commercial standing of the person whose information is sold. Thus, a person whose personal information is sold does not have a cause of action for appropriation against the investigator who sold the information.

Pretext phone callingThe target of the phone call is deceived into believing that the caller is affiliated with a reliable entity who has a legitimate purpose in requesting the information.The pretext clearly creates a misunderstanding as to the investigator's affiliation. Accordingly, we conclude that an investigator who obtains a person's work address (or any other information ?? Ed.) by means of pretextual phone calling, and then sells the information, may be liable for damages.

Legislative Update

Truth in Caller ID Passes Congress

The House of Representatives passed the "Truth in Caller ID" bill yesterday. The House accepted the Senate version of the bill, (S 30) and will send it on to the President for his signature.

The good news is that the Senate bill retains language that limits the use of "spoofing" of caller ID information only "with the intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain something of value". NCISS opposed the earlier House-passed caller id bill (HR 1258) because it had troublesome language that would have included a ban on spoofing with the intent to "defraud or deceive". Our legislative committee was concerned that any use of spoofing could be considered by courts to be intended to deceive. Investigators would lose a valuable tool.

After the House passed its bill, we called upon NCISS members to contact their Senators to urge them to reject HR 1258 and insist on the language of S 30. Some criticized us for doing so. NCISS Washington Advocate Larry Sabbath then contacted Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL), who sponsored S 30, and relevant committee staff members to explain the how "spoofing" is used by private investigators and why we prefer S 30.

It is clear from the debate that Congress intends to permit continued use of manipulation of caller id information where there are legitimate business reasons for doing so. Collection companies were cited as one example.

Thanks to all investigators who responded to our call to contact their Senators on short notice. And a special thank you to Senator Bill Nelson and his staff who listened to our concerns and responded.

Keeping the profession informed,

Jimmie Mesis
NCISS Legislative Chairman

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Private Investigators Help Adopted Families

posted by PInow.com Staff | October 20th, 2010

CHICAGO, IL – Many children born through the mid-1900s and later adopted are having a hard time finding their adoptive parents due to the closed adoption policies of some states. Only Kansas and Alaska have always had open adoption records, but now some groups are arguing to allow more openness in older adoption records. Private investigator Christine Lee notes that in some cases, open records are not enough, since incorrect information and incomplete information is often found on older birth certificates. As well, even in states with open adoption record policies, adopted children sometimes have to pay for private agencies or state agencies to unearth the records. Private investigator Mike Kiger believes that as baby boomers enter their golden years, more of them may be looking for family links and hiring private investigators to find birth families.

Tiny Video Camera Unveiled

posted by PInow.com Staff | October 20th, 2010

Singapore – A new Singapore video camera, the i-Ball, is about the width of a small coin and about 50 grams in weight. Made by Trek 2000, the device costs only \$119, making it easily within the reach of many consumers. With a 2-megapixel video camera and the ability to stream videos (complete with audio) live and wirelessly to computers and smartphones, the camera is also very user-friendly. While the video camera may be very handy for private investigators, some – including the Association of Certified Security Agencies — have voiced concerns that the device can easily be misused by suspicious spouses or private customers who could use the device to violate someone's privacy.

A Facebook PI Game

posted by PInow.com Staff | October 27th, 2010

NEW YORK, NY – Facebook users can now play CSI: Crime City, based on the popular TV show CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The Facebook game will allow players to pretend they are private investigators, following clues to solve crimes in a fictional Las Vegas. Players can set up a CSI lab, earn currency, and solve crimes by visiting Las Vegas landmarks and “crime scenes.” The game has more than 6,000 fans and 16,000 players so far.

Dumpster-Diving Reveals Personal Information

posted by PInow.com Staff | November 3rd, 2010

TORONTO, Canada – A study by the National Association of Information Destruction found that private investigators checking up on dumpsters outside of car dealers, doctor's offices and other businesses were easily able to get personal records and information about patients and customers. The study found that 7 out of 50 dumpsters investigated by private investigators contained sensitive data which could be used by identity thieves. Doctor's offices fared worst in the study, with three out of four doctor's offices dumpsters containing personal documents containing patient contact information, health card numbers and medical history details. According to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, doctor's offices are required by law to dispose of medical records correctly.

Private Investigators Find Profitable Niche in Online Dating

posted by PInow.com Staff | December 22nd, 2010

NEW YORK, NY — Online daters are increasingly turning to private investigators in order to find out more about online lovers, a move which private investigators say provides them with a profitable niche business. High-profile cases, such as that of rapist and online predator Jeffrey Maralis, have increased demand for investigative services. Many private investigators now specialize in running background checks on potential mates, often for a nominal fee. These investigators say business is booming.

Background Checks On Spouses Can Save Heartache, Financial Woes, Warns Private Investigator

posted by PInow.com Staff | October 27th, 2010

BURLESON, TX – Burleson teacher Robyn Grimsley fell in love and got married, but soon learned that her new husband used her identity to run up tens of thousands of dollars in loans in her name. Private investigator Catherine Smit of Stiletto Spy & Company Investigations says that she has increasingly been hearing stories of financial fraud in dating and has seen an increased demand for background checks on potential partners and spouses. Smit notes that a simple background check can help protect your assets and finances, especially since it is very hard to press charges for financial fraud once a marriage has taken place.

Follow that Car:

10 Mobile Surveillance Tips for Private Investigators

posted by PInow.com Staff | December 1st, 2010

Texas [private investigator](#) and current TALI President Kelly E. Riddle wrote an excellent surveillance book years ago titled *The Art of Surveillance*. Mr. Riddle was correct. Mobile surveillance is indeed an art form. There's an exception to every rule. Much of it depends on traffic flow, location and the time of day. The following 10 tips will help you conduct a successful mobile surveillance.

- 1. We have Ignition!** The timing of your initial departure from a stationary position to a mobile or rolling surveillance behind the subject is critical. The tendency is to either begin following too soon (and get burned) or to hesitate (and lose the subject.) You have to allow the subject a short amount of time to drive off. Following too quickly or closely at the outset will make the subject notice you. Later on when you're miles down the road and still behind them they'll wonder why the same vehicle from their neighborhood (yours) is still behind them. Let the subject get down the block before you ease into traffic.
- 2. Follow that car! (But not too closely)** The distance you maintain between your surveillance vehicle and the vehicle you are following during a mobile surveillance is dictated by the amount of traffic on the road and your environment. For example, during rush hour on a busy street or highway you should maintain no more than one car between you and the subject. In rural areas you can allow a greater distance between you and the subject. This is all very relative. The more congested the traffic, the closer you need to be to the subject. Make sure you keep an eye on the subject's vehicle and use your peripheral vision for everything else. Find something unique about the subject's vehicle such as a bumper sticker, brake light pattern, spoiler, etc., and keep your eyes glued.
- 3. Choke Points:** During a mobile surveillance keep your eyes focused on the subject's vehicle and the traffic ahead of them. This will allow you plenty of time to determine the best course of action. Major intersections, highway intersections, bridges, toll roads, etc., are all choke points. Be alert for these types of areas. You'll have to decrease the distance between you and the subject's vehicle until you get through these choke points. If you fail to do so they will breeze through a green light and you'll be cooling your jets at a red light as they slip away.
- 4. Double traffic lights:** Beware of streets having two sets of traffic lights on the same block, one right after another in very close proximity. It's like that old Tennessee Ernie Ford song 16 Tons about the guy with two fists of steel: "If the right one don't get you ... then the left one will." When following someone through double traffic lights keep your eyes on the second set of traffic lights. Those are the lights you have to stay ahead of. If you're not alert the subject will make it through and you'll get stuck.
- 5. Right Turns and Left Turns:** When the subject turns right at an intersection you should speed up to that intersection. Once at the corner quickly decrease your speed and slowly turn right. Burning rubber around a right turn will cause the subject to look in his rear-view mirror and notice you. Double left turns can present a minor challenge. If the subject is in the right-hand lane of a double left turn he could be turning left or going straight. You usually have no choice but to pull up behind him in the same lane or you risk losing him at this choke point.

6. **Sunday Drivers:** Slow or “Sunday” drivers magically appear out of nowhere to torment you as soon as your mobile surveillance begins. Do not sit and think about whether you should pass them or whether they will eventually speed up: you should because they won’t. Don’t hesitate. Pass them right away. Get around them quickly or you’ll lose your subject. It’s that simple.

7. **It Tolls for Thee:** Be aware of all toll roads, turnpikes and other private or publicly built roads in your surveillance area that require a fee for usage. More importantly, consider whether or not your subject will take the toll road and blow through with an EZ tag like someone I recently followed in Houston. Maybe your subject will stop and pay the fee at each toll booth. Either way you have to be prepared with an EZ tag or plenty of coins. I’d have both on hand. If you operate in Dallas, Houston or other big cities that have toll roads you would do well to purchase an EZ tag.

8. **Free Parking:** One of the more difficult aspects of a mobile surveillance is the fact that you generally do not know where the subject is going. When it comes to clients, video is everything. As the subject arrives at his destination you have to immediately determine where they will park and at the same time scout out a suitable surveillance position for you. Do this quickly and you will be able to get video of the subject walking in. Handicap-accessible parking spaces and other reserved spots are usually up front in prime locations and allow for excellent opportunities to videotape. I am not suggesting you break the law by parking there, but using these parking spaces, if only for a few minutes, will allow you to secure good, close, solid video of your subject as they walk into a place of business. Once they’re in you can relocate to another parking space to videotape them walking back to their vehicle. You have to do what you have to do to secure video. There are no excuses. Clients have no understanding of how difficult our job can be.

9. **The Sun is Not Your Friend:** As I mentioned in tip #8, when you follow a subject to their destination you must quickly park and set up your surveillance vehicle to acquire videotape as they walk in. As you do so, remember the sun is not your friend. Videotaping against the sun will wash out the video and reflect off your windows, giving you poor-quality video. Along with everything else going through your mind as you get the subject to their destination, don’t forget to set up your surveillance vehicle so that the sun is behind you as you videotape.

10. **Taking Notes on the Go!** It is difficult to try to accurately write down every detail of a subject’s activity during the middle of a mobile surveillance. Although there are periods when you can reach for pen and paper and update your notes, more often than not things are happening too quickly to do so. It is also best not to simply rely upon your memory. Remember: you’re gathering evidence and what you write may end up being read back to you in court one day. It has to be factual. A simple solution is to verbally dictate the subject’s activities into a digital recorder during the mobile surveillance and then use these audio files to complete your notes once the surveillance has ended.

As I said earlier, surveillance is an art form. It takes patience and a keen understanding of human nature. The reality is much of it is learned through trial and error; what works and what doesn’t work. Adding these 10 techniques to your surveillance tool kit will improve your odds of having a successful surveillance. Good luck! Send me a quick e-mail if you have any questions about mobile surveillance.

If you liked these tips, read Scott B. Fulmer’s articles on [successful surveillance](#) and [interviewing techniques](#).

Scott B. Fulmer is a private investigator, speaker and president and CEO of Scott B. Fulmer Investigations, LLC based in San Antonio, Texas. He has been in the security and investigation field for over 20 years. He is a Gulf War veteran, husband and father of three. Mr. Fulmer is a frequent contributor to PInow.com and is available to speak to your group, seminar or conference. You can contact him at scottbfulmerinvestigations.com.

IAPI Member in the News

Rio de Janeiro RJ Sunday, January 23, 2011 Brazil, Detective Fábio Lacerda Sao Paulo visit the Academy of Intelligence Private in Rio de Janeiro

DETECTIVE GOMES - Director of AIP - Private Intelligence Academy: <http://www.inteligenciaprivada.com/>
DETECTIVE LACERDA - Operations Coordinator of ANDP - National Academy of Detectives Professional: <http://www.andp.com.br/>

In this month of January 2011 we received a visit from our friend Detective Fabio Lacerda which operates in private research in São Paulo and also represents the ANDP Curitiba - PR in his state. On this occasion we had the opportunity to talk about the difficulties encountered by professionals and share our ideals for the future. During the meeting confirmed the mutual interest in working together for better days for our category. We also talked about the importance of I CONGRESS OF DETECTIVES OF BRAZIL that AIP - Intelligence Academy Private will be promoting on 23 and 24 July 2011 in Rio de Janeiro. During the conversation, Detective Fábio Lacerda pointed out some important issues to be discussed in Congress and confirmed their presence. I want to thank the noble fellow for the visit, which was very honored and send a big hug to all the detectives of Sao Paulo, Curitiba and Paraná.

I CONGRESS AND THE DETECTIVES PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS OF BRAZIL

We invite all private investigators, professional detectives, private investigators, agents of undisclosed information, active or not in the market, agency directors, training courses, trade unions, associations and councils to participate in the FIRST CONGRESS OF PRIVATE DETECTIVES AND INVESTIGATORS OF BRAZIL, promoted by AIP - Private Intelligence Academy. The congress aims to discuss some important items that will certainly contribute to a better future for the category.

Source of Information: <http://meucarowatson.blogspot.com/2011/01/detetive-fabio-lacerda-de-sao-paulo.html>
AIP - Private Intelligence Academy: <http://www.inteligenciaprivada.com/>

The first suggested themes are:

- 1 - The importance of the private investigator for the society.
- 2 - Recognition of professional activity by the police, judicial and public prosecution.
- 3 - The education and professional training.
- 4 - Identifying the professional.

These are just some topics presented by professionals. You can also submit your topic for discussion and suggestion. We will be inviting some authorities to compose the panel discussion.

- 2001 Representative of the SSP (Civilian Police).
- 2001 Representative of the Military Police.
- 2001 Deputy Public Prosecutor.
- 2001 Representative of the OAB.
- 2001 Representative of the Legislative Assembly.

On July 24 (Sunday), will be celebrating in advance the day of the Detective (July 26) with a big party.

IMPORTANT:

Soon we will be providing the values for the event, as well as contacts for discounted hotels and travel agencies for professionals who come from other states. The completion and success of this Congress depends exclusively participation of true professionals. The minimum number to carry on with this idea is 100 (one hundred) participants.

Cordially,
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Darwin & Carolyn Rittgers in the News

WAVERLY (KWVL) The items went quickly during a live auction at The Centre in Waverly. Each bid helps long-time Waverly residents Darwin and Carolyn Rittgers.

"It's unbelievable people open their hearts and respond in the way they have. I'm very grateful for it," said Darwin Rittgers.

The Rittgers have been together 34 years, but soon they may be closer than ever.

"I said Darwin let me try to give you a kidney, and he said I don't want you to. I want you to just let me try. What have I got to lose?" said Carolyn Rittgers.

About two years ago, Darwin went to the doctor for a routine physical. That's when he learned his kidney function was deteriorating.

"Now my function around mid teens. Typically transplant is at 12 to 13 percent, so I'm really close," said Darwin Rittgers.

The goal is to get him another kidney before he needs dialysis. He's on the national donor registry, but the wait is often three to five years.

Six, separate people tried to donate their kidneys -- but they didn't match.

Finally, Carolyn pushed her way to get tested.

"I knew in my heart I had to do this because if I could give him my kidney, he'll be better," she said.

"I was the first one to tell her no. I didn't want to put her through that," said Darwin Rittgers.

Initial tests showed Carolyn to be a match, so then she went in for a full-day of further testing. But that's when doctors found it.

"Ended up being a little more than eight pounds. It was huge tumor, part attached to her ovary. We had no idea. No idea," said Darwin Rittgers.

Carolyn said the tumor was larger than both her children at birth, but thankfully, it wasn't cancerous.

As odd as it sounds... Darwin sees his need for a kidney as a blessing in disguise.

"I feel blessed today no matter what happens to me, the fact that we discovered that, she is now going to be healthy is my reward for this whole thing," he said.

In the end, both may be healthy.

There's still some testing to be done, but as of now, it looks like Carolyn will be able to give her husband a kidney. Of course, once she heals from her own surgery.

"I'm telling you, the Lord was in this 100 percent," said Carolyn Rittgers.

Darwin's brother and sister organized a benefit for the couple.

"We just wanted to support them and assist them and it's another way of letting them know we're behind them," said Dell Rittgers.

The Rittgers said all the support is overwhelming and very appreciated.

Carolyn said kidney transplant surgery costs \$105,000 per person. Insurance should cover most of her surgery, but they need money for Darwin's. If you'd like to donate to the Rittgers, a fund is set up at First National Bank in Waverly.

Reporter: Danielle Wagner

IAPI is pleased to welcome these new members to our Association

Kent Genthe (Associate)

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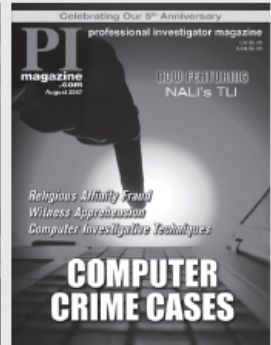
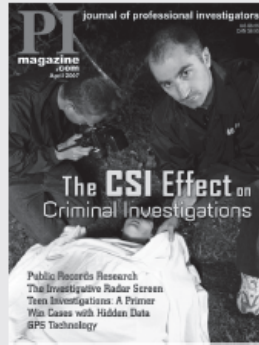
Legislative Update

House File 122 would allow licensed private investigators and private security officers to be in possession of weapons now deemed “offensive weapons” within the Iowa Code. Possession of such weapons currently constitutes a class D felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine up to \$7,500.

According to the Code, offensive weapons are “a machine gun, a short-barreled rifle or short-barreled shotgun, certain other weapons which fire or can be made to fire a projectile by the explosion of a propellant charge, a bomb, grenade, or mine, any rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, certain rockets, missiles, and other similar devices, a ballistic knife, any part or combination of parts to be used to convert any device into an offensive weapon, certain bullets, projectiles, shotshells, or cartridges, any mechanical device specifically constructed and designed so that when attached to a firearm silences, muffles, or suppresses the sound when fired, an antique firearm or collector’s firearm, any device which is not designed or redesigned for use as a weapon including signaling, pyrotechnic, line-throwing, or safety devices, and unserviceable firearms.”

To read more go to:

<http://iowaindependent.com/51622/weapons-controversy-follows-iowa-legislators-home>



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