

Factors that influence the Price of the Investigation

Like people, not all investigations are alike. What may seem to be a simple matter at first glance can turn out to be more complicated than it appears or in some cases less complicated, which brings us to the heart of the reason as to why one investigation may cost more or less than another – unknown factors and variables or as one attorney once put it, “you can’t see what’s coming around the bend in the road”.

What can you do to minimize your investigation costs?

We strive to provide our clients excellent investigation services at an affordable cost. Simple measures can reduce the cost of your investigation and stay within a particular budget if necessary. Follow these guidelines and minimize your costs:

Define what you want to know beforehand

Before contacting an investigator define exactly what you want to know. This may sound simple, but we are contacted by clients regularly who isn’t exactly sure what they want to find out. They may use the shotgun approach and inundate the investigator they are talking to. Most investigators are organized and task-oriented individuals. They usually make compile a list and go down it ticking one task off after another as they complete them. This not only will keep your costs down but will make the investigatory work faster and more efficiently.

Gather information prior to contacting the investigator

Items like the full name, date of birth, social security number, address, associated business entities, the name of the spouse will help us properly identify the person that we are investigating. Too often our clients have little information to work with. A name like John Smith or James Jones with no address may take us hours to properly identify the specific person that we are investigating. One thing we recommend is to take the information you gather about the target of the investigation and put it into a Word or Notepad document. This will save the investigator from having to take it down and retype it later.

Have copies of supporting documents on hand if they are relevant to the investigation

Why? It saves us time and money if we need them later.

Limit the scope or focus of your investigation

By limiting the scope or focus of the investigation and concentrating on key issues the investigation team will expend less time and expenses.

Set a budget limit

Investigators are often called into situations where they are given assignments to find out specific types of information that require a substantial degree of effort, out-of-pocket costs, and thinking outside the box strategies. In these types of situations, it is difficult to give a specific timeframe or cost estimate for the completion of the task at hand. It is often prudent to set a budget limitation on these types of cases. The investigator assigned to your case will advise you if your case matches this criterion or not.

Allow the investigator to do his job

One of the factors that inhibit an investigator's efficiency is a constant barrage of questions from the client while he is working on their case. The investigator has to then re-shift his focus on the investigation to answer their questions and add new ones. Many times after the investigator answers their questions they are followed by new ones in the same fashion again. Remember that the investigator is billing you for his time. For this reason alone, it is prudent to prepare your questions prior to the investigation. It is perfectly normal for most clients to ask a few additional questions during an investigation, however, we are referring to individuals with insecurity issues that are never satisfied no matter how many questions are answered.