ISSUE NO. 23 · SPECIAL EDITION

TRUE CASES · NAMES CHANGED

THE PANHANDLE

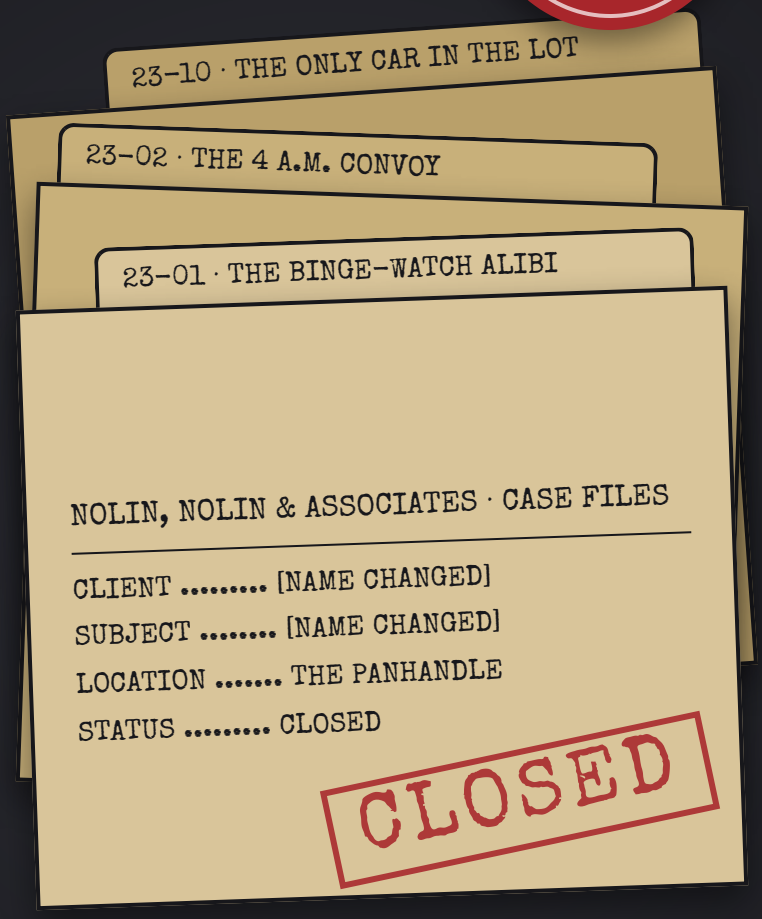
Investigator

SPECIAL EDITION

PI Stories

Real cases from our closed files. The names are made up. The stakeouts weren't.

VOTED #1 BEST OF FLORIDA & BEST OF BAY



FILE 23-06 · PANAMA CITY BEACH
The Elevator Ride
One night, three floors and two souvenir cups

FILE 23-03 · PANAMA CITY
The House Nobody Lived In
A brand-new house, and a garage code he knew by heart

FILE 23-07 · PANAMA CITY BEACH
The Man Who Quit Drinking
A custody fight, a boat ride and a bar receipt

FILE 23-09 · GULF COAST
The Golf Cart Getaway
"Just drinks," she said. Then came the golf cart.

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FROM THE OPERATING PARTNER

Pull up a chair. These are the stories.

People always ask us the same question: what's the craziest case you've ever worked? So for this special edition, we went back through our closed files and picked our favorites.

Some end with a kiss caught on camera at dawn, an elevator ride or a golf cart backing out of a garage. One ends with a phone call from a sister. In our custody cases, we followed the facts for the children's sake, wherever they led. And some have no big reveal at all, because the truth isn't always dramatic. Sometimes it's a TV binge.

If you're reading this in a waiting room, enjoy. If you're reading it because something doesn't add up at home, call us.



Jacob Nolin
OPERATING PARTNER

ABOUT THESE STORIES: Every case is real and closed. Every client and subject name is invented. Jobs, vehicles, places, dates and other details have been changed so no one can be identified.

SUSPECTED INFIDELITY · 30A

The Binge-Watch Alibi

A worried husband sent us four emails in 19 minutes. Three investigators, four days and one very nosy bar stool later, we learned his wife's big secret.

Some cases start with a phone call. This one started with an avalanche. One evening a husband from out of state sent us four emails in 19 minutes: fifteen photos, the listing for the beach rental his wife had booked, and the names of two people he was sure she'd be seeing. One was a man. One was a woman. He wanted to know who came and went, and he wanted us there in the morning.

THE BUILDING NOBODY COULD GET INTO

His wife, we'll call her Dana, was staying in a top-floor rental in a controlled-access building in the middle of a busy 30A town. We couldn't go inside, and we wouldn't try. Instead, three investigators split up every exterior door. We found her SUV in the lot out back, marked it so we'd know the moment it moved, and set a motion-triggered camera on it.

One more thing we noticed: inside that building, cell service barely worked. Remember that. It matters later.

DAY ONE: DINNER FOR ONE

A sweep of the beach turned up nothing. Late that afternoon Dana walked the town square alone, ate dinner alone and went back to the rental alone. Not exactly the weekend her husband had pictured.

> ***"Fifteen photos, a rental listing and two suspects, sent in 19 minutes."***

CASE CARD · 23-01

CLIENT	"Mark," a husband from out of state
SUBJECT	"Dana," his wife
WHERE	A 30A beach town
TEAM	Three investigators, led by Jacob Nolin
LENGTH	Four days (one added free)
EVIDENCE	155 photos, 21 videos

CLOSED

WATCHING A BUILDING YOU CAN'T ENTER

1. Cover every exit, not just the front door.
2. Mark the car so you know if it moves.
3. Put a motion camera on the vehicle.
4. Sweep the places they're likely to go.
5. Get close in public, and stay quiet.

Day 1 DINNER FOR ONE | Day 2 THE PARKING PASS | Day 3 THE CAR NEVER MOVES | Day 4 THE BAR STOOL

DAY TWO: THE PARKING PASS

The next morning, an investigator photographed the handwritten parking pass on her dashboard. It wasn't in Dana's name. It belonged to a girlfriend, an old friend who lives in the area.

That afternoon the two of them walked to a beach pavilion where they had chairs rented for the week. They stayed nearly three hours. Sunscreen. Paperbacks. Nobody else.

DAY THREE: THE CAR THAT NEVER MOVED

Midweek, her husband called: Dana had extended her stay by a day. We added the extra day at no charge. Her SUV still hadn't moved. Neither had Dana, much, except from the rental to a lounger by the water and back.

> ***"Her big secret: six episodes of a TV show and a dessert run."***

DAY FOUR: THE BAR STOOL

On the last evening, Dana and her friend walked to a café on the square and sat at the bar. So did one of our investigators, right next to them, for about an hour.

What did he learn? They had binge-watched six episodes of a TV series the night before and planned to finish it after dinner. They talked about taking a cruise someday. That was it. That was the plan: snacks and TV.

Dana wrapped up the night with a solo dessert run to an ice cream shop and met her friend back at the door of the building. Lights out.

WHY SHE WAS SO HARD TO REACH

Remember the cell service? Our report pointed it out. A wife who doesn't answer her phone in a building with almost no signal isn't necessarily hiding anything. Sometimes she's just on the couch, three episodes deep.

CASE CLOSED No evidence of infidelity. Neither "suspect" ever appeared, there were no visitors, and the car never moved in four days. We recommended no further surveillance.

WHY WE REPORT THE BORING ANSWER TOO

A clean result is still a result. We tell clients what we see, not what they expect. Sometimes the best news a PI can deliver is that nothing happened, and we'll put that in writing just as carefully as a smoking gun.

FILE 23-01 · TALLY

Investigators: 3
Days: 4
Suspects who showed up: 0
TV episodes: at least 6
Desserts: 1

CHILD CUSTODY · PANAMA CITY BEACH

The 4 A.M. Convoy

A mother believed her children's dad was heading out late on his custodial weekends. Our overnight logs told the story, right down to a 4 a.m. convoy.

Custody cases aren't about catching someone. They're about making sure children are safe every weekend. Our client, we'll call her Amanda, believed that on her ex-husband's weekends with the kids, he was going out late with his girlfriend. Her attorney needed a pattern, not a feeling.

SHE BROUGHT EVERYTHING

Amanda gave us a head start: places he liked, his social media (he'd blocked her), his vehicles, even which way his doorbell camera pointed. We built the plan around his weekends, and our analyst watched his social media for plans posted ahead of time.

THEN HE MOVED

Halfway through the case he moved. So we redid the whole site plan, with new angles and new posts, and kept going.

THE CONVOY

One fall Saturday he left alone in his pickup at 8:00 p.m. At 4:00 a.m. he came home with a second car, believed to be his girlfriend's, close behind. Our report laid out the pattern night by night and let the facts speak.

CASE CARD · 23-02

CLIENT	"Amanda," a mother
SUBJECT	"Cody," her ex-husband
TEAM	Jacob Nolin, Joe Perrigan
LENGTH	Six months, planned around his weekends
RESULT	Concerns confirmed and documented

CLOSED

WHAT A CUSTODY CASE NEEDS

1. A pattern over time, not one bad night.
2. Evidence gathered lawfully, so it holds up.
3. The truth, whichever way it falls.

OVERNIGHT LOG · FILE 23-02 (CUSTODIAL WEEKENDS)

Weekend 1 · Fri	8:55 PM out with girlfriend	2:20 AM dropped off
Weekend 1 · Sat	5:15 PM out again	1:30 AM dropped off
Summer weekend	9:00 PM picked up	1:41 AM home
Fall weekend · Fri	11:05 PM picked up	1:50 AM home
Fall weekend · Sat	8:00 PM leaves alone in his pickup	4:00 AM home, 2nd car behind

CASE CLOSED Our conclusion: the client's concerns were factually valid and had merit, with every late night documented for her attorney.

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INFIDELITY · PANAMA CITY

The House Nobody Lived In

He asked for a separation out of the blue, then moved into a brand-new house. The family wanted to know one thing: was he actually living there?

The call came from a mother worried about her daughter. A few weeks earlier, her son-in-law, a successful professional with an office in town, had asked for a separation out of nowhere. He'd just moved into a new house. The family's theory: he was staying in a short-term rental until his furniture arrived. They'd even named a possible girlfriend, then talked themselves out of it.

They didn't need evidence for court. They wanted the truth before a family meeting at the end of the month.

NOBODY HOME

We started with the new house. Early morning, dinnertime, late at night: no lights, no truck, no husband. We'll call him Grant. The mother had done a drive-by of her own at a friend's place. Nothing there either.

THE WRONG FRIDAY

A tip said Grant worked at a second office on Fridays. So at 6 a.m. one Friday, we were sitting in that parking lot. No truck. It turned out he worked there every other Friday. We'd picked the wrong one.

> *"A brand-new house, and nobody home. Morning, noon or night."*

CASE CARD · 23-03

CLIENT	"Barbara," a mother-in-law out of state
SUBJECT	"Grant," her son-in-law
LEAD	Jessica Kennedy
TEAM	Jessica Kennedy, Jerry West, Joe Perrigan, Jacob Nolin
LENGTH	About ten days
EVIDENCE	41 photos and video

CLOSED

MEANWHILE, GRANDMA, PI

Our client was running her own investigation from three states away. Card charges showed a beach restaurant tab that looked like dinner for two, plus a stop at a nightclub. She was good. We told her so.

LOST IN TRAFFIC

We finally picked Grant up leaving his office one afternoon. He drove right past his new house without slowing down, turned toward the beach and disappeared into a sea of brake lights. Mobile surveillance is a lot like fishing: some days you lose one.

DINNER FOR ONE, THEN A GARAGE DOOR

With the family meeting days away, the client told us to use every remaining hour. We added investigators. That evening Grant drove to a beachside restaurant, ate dinner alone at the bar, scrolled his phone and left.

We followed him to a home in a quiet subdivision. He punched in the garage code like he'd done it a hundred times. Property records told us whose house it was: the very woman the family had named, and then ruled out.

> ***"The house he moved into was the one place he never was."***

6:30 A.M.

We watched the house overnight. At 6:30 the next morning the garage door went up. Grant and the homeowner were getting ready for work, and they kissed before leaving. On video.

It was the same day he was scheduled to sit down with his wife.

FIELD LOG · FILE 23-03 (CONDENSED)

Day 1 · 6:00 AM	Second office lot. Subject vehicle not present. (Wrong Friday.)
Day 4 · 3:00 PM	Subject departs office. Passes new residence without stopping. Lost in beach traffic.
Day 6 · 5:30 PM	Subject leaves office. Brief stop at new residence.
Day 6 · 6:15 PM	Beachside restaurant. Dines alone at bar. On phone.
Day 6 · 7:30 PM	Arrives at residence in subdivision. Enters garage by keypad.
Day 7 · 6:30 AM	Garage opens. Subject and female kiss before departing for work.

CASE CLOSED The family had their answer before the meeting: where he was really sleeping, and with whom, documented on video.



JESSICA'S TAKE

New address, new story? Check where the car is at 6 a.m., not 6 p.m. People can say where they live. Mornings tell you where they sleep.

COHABITATION · SOUTH GEORGIA

The Lunch-Hour Address

She said she lived in town. Her car said otherwise, every single night.

Cohabitation cases come down to one question: where does someone sleep, night after night? Our client, we'll call him Wes, believed his ex-wife wasn't living at the in-town address she claimed, but with her boyfriend on a farm outside town. One visit wouldn't prove it. A pattern would.

TWO HOUSES AT ONCE

So we watched both places at once, in three operations spread over three months. The farm had exactly one way in and out. Helpful.

LIKE CLOCKWORK

The pattern showed up on day one and never changed. About 7:40 every morning, she left the farm. Around 1 p.m. she stopped by the "official" address for about 45 minutes, a lunch break, essentially. Around 5:15 she drove back to the farm and stayed the night. Every night.

THE PAPERWORK DID THE REST

One afternoon she was filmed loading belongings from the in-town house into her car. Then, between operations, she bought a new car and registered it, on official state paperwork, to the boyfriend's farm. We couldn't have scripted it better.

DATE NIGHT

One Saturday her car never moved, but his sports car left for a dinner-length outing. The next day both cars left and returned together, like a two-car parade.

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

One evening our remote recorder failed right as she came home. The investigator saw it; the footage didn't. We swapped the unit and kept going.

CASE CARD · 23-04

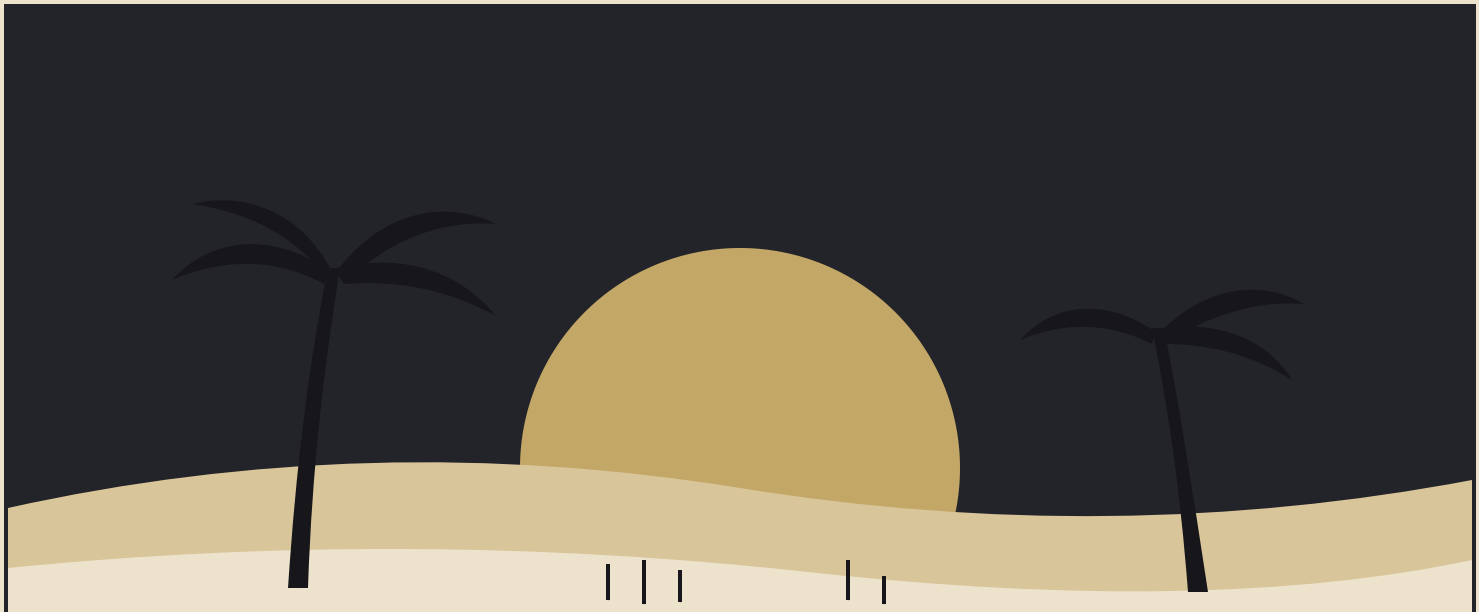
CLIENT	"Wes," her ex-husband
SUBJECT	"Tina," his ex-wife
TEAM	Jacob Nolin, Jerry West, Joe Perrigan
LENGTH	Three operations over three months
RESULT	Confirmed

CLOSED

WHAT PROVES COHABITATION?

1. Overnight stays, night after night.
2. Where the cars are at dawn.
3. Registrations, mail and paperwork.
4. Daily routines, documented.
5. Time: weeks and months, not one visit.

CASE CLOSED Confirmed across three operations: the farm was home. The records were certified for court.



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MISSING PERSON LOCATE · PENSACOLA

Gone Without a Trace

A woman needed in a court case went silent. Her house sat empty with flyers stuck in the door. Where do you look for someone who has vanished? Everywhere.

The law firm's message was short. A woman in her sixties, we'll call her Carol, was needed in a court case. She'd been in touch with them, then went completely silent. Phones disconnected. Emails unanswered. They needed her found.

THE EMPTY HOUSE

Before the paperwork was even signed, an investigator drove out to her last known address. The grass was overgrown and flyers were stuck in the door. The man next door, who had sold her the house, said he'd watched the occupants move out a month or two earlier. He hadn't seen her since.

THE PAPER TRAIL

Back at the office, Joe Perrigan went to work. Databases gave us her vehicle, a late-model luxury SUV. A traffic ticket from the year before tied her to the same house and the same car. Commercial license plate reader data put the SUV in Pensacola that winter.

We emailed nine different addresses. Nine. Not one reply.

A RELATIVE WHO WASN'T

A woman with the same last name answered one of our calls. No relation, she said. She had never heard of her.

"Phones disconnected. Emails unanswered. Grass growing. Where do you even start?"

CASE CARD · 23-05

CLIENT	An out-of-state law firm
SUBJECT	"Carol," a woman in her sixties
TEAM	Jacob Nolin, Jerry West, Joe Perrigan
LENGTH	About ten days
RESULT	Found

CLOSED

WHERE WE LOOKED

- ✗ Her house: empty, flyers on the door
- ✗ Nine email addresses: no replies
- ✗ Phone numbers: disconnected
- ✗ A possible relative: no relation
- ✗ The airport: no record, no car
- ? Her bank: "very concerned"
- ✗ Every neighbor: nothing
- ✓ Her sister: the break

THE AIRPORT

Maybe she'd flown somewhere. The airport parking operator ran partial plates: no hits. Airport police: no record of her, and no car in the lot.

"VERY CONCERNED"

Her bank wouldn't tell us a thing without a subpoena, which is exactly how it should work. But the customer service rep listened to our questions and said just one thing: she was "very concerned." She wouldn't say why. We hung up more worried than when we'd dialed.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK

A second trip to the house, on video this time: still empty. We knocked on every door around it. Nobody knew a thing. On a hunch, we even called a foreign consulate.

> ***"Nine emails, one airport, one consulate, and a sister's phone call."***

THE SISTER

Then came the phone call that cracked it. We reached Carol's sister. Carol had been out of the country, she said, and had come back to the States, but nobody knew why she hadn't come home yet.

The family tracked her down and passed along our message: call your attorney. Right now.

WHY IT WORKED

Databases told us where Carol had been. Plate readers told us when. But in the end, what found her was the oldest tool we have: a phone, a polite voice and the right family member on the other end.

CASE CLOSED Found. She had been abroad, had come back, and was told by her family to contact her attorney immediately. The firm also got the full paper trail.

HOW A REAL LOCATE WORKS

Five steps from File 23-05

1. Start at the last known address, and talk to the neighbors.
2. Run the records: vehicles, tickets, property, courts.
3. Follow the car. Plate data shows where and when.
4. Check the obvious exits, like the airport.
5. Call family. Then call family again.

INFIDELITY · PANAMA CITY BEACH

The Elevator Ride

She knew where her husband would be that weekend, and she had a name for the woman. She needed proof. One of our investigators got it by riding the elevator with them.

Some infidelity cases take weeks. This one took a single night, because our client did her homework. She knew her husband, we'll call him Dale, would be at a condo on the beach. She had a photo of the woman she believed would be with him. She even had a gate pass to the property and access to the condo's doorbell camera.

THREE POSTS, ONE DOOR

Joe Perrigan mapped the building. Almost everyone who parks there has to walk past the elevators. So we set three posts: a spotter in the lot, an investigator near the elevators and one on a bench in the third-floor lobby. A small camera covered the hallway, just in case.

GOING UP

Just before midnight, Dale's pickup rolled in. He and the woman walked to the elevator, and our investigator stepped in right behind them, camera rolling, making friendly small talk. Dale was carrying two giant souvenir cups from a beach bar. She rested her head on his shoulder. Third floor. Ding.

LIGHTS OUT

They walked down the hall and into the condo together. We watched the only door all night. Nobody came out until morning. The doorbell camera filled in the rest: dinner out, back again and nobody else around.

CASE CARD · 23-06

CLIENT	"Kim," a wife
SUBJECT	"Dale," her husband
TEAM	Jacob Nolin, Jerry West, Joe Perrigan
LENGTH	One night
RESULT	Overnight stay confirmed

CLOSED

THE RIDE UP

3	investigators
3	floors
2	souvenir cups
1	head on a shoulder

CASE CLOSED Confirmed in one night: arriving together, the elevator ride, walking into the condo and staying the night, all on video.

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CHILD CUSTODY · PANAMA CITY BEACH

The Man Who Quit Drinking

He said he'd quit drinking and would win custody of his young child. A boat ride, a bar receipt and a sworn statement told a different story.

When our client, we'll call her Jenna, hired us, the father of her young child was asking the court for custody. Later he told her he had quit drinking, that he'd win full custody, and that he'd move the child out of state. She needed to know what life at his house really looked like.

WEEKEND ONE

Our first weekend, guests drank at the house from noon to midnight. The next morning his girlfriend carried empty beer cases from the garage to her trunk. A few days later he was mixing drinks out of his car's trunk in the front yard. The house had no trash service, so a trash pull was off the table. The empties left by truck.

1 A.M. HOMECOMINGS

One night the couple rolled in about 12:20 a.m. He was driving her car, and stepped out with a drink in his hand. Voices carried from the back of the house until 2.

BY BOAT

We needed to see the back of the house, where the yard met the water. You can't see that from the street. So we went up the canal by boat. Fence sections were missing or lying flat on the ground. Nothing stood between a toddler and the water.

> *"You can't see the back of a house from the street. So we went by water."*

CASE CARD · 23-07

CLIENT	"Jenna," a mother
SUBJECT	"Rick," her child's father
TEAM	Jacob Nolin, Jerry West, Joe Perrigan, Jasmine Allen
LENGTH	About a year, with a follow-up
RESULT	His claim disproved

CLOSED

EVIDENCE THAT HELD UP

1. Video of drinking at the house.
2. A bar receipt with times on it.
3. A sworn, recorded witness statement.
4. Photos of the fence, taken from the water.
5. A professional parental evaluation.
6. Follow-up photos, a year later.

"I QUIT"

Months later came the big claim: he'd stopped drinking. Then he posted a photo from a beach bar.

It was raining and the patio was standing room only, so our investigator waited it out in the car, then grabbed a patio seat around 8 p.m. For the next two hours he watched: a beer about every 15 minutes, a vodka drink every hour, and plenty of table-hopping with spring breakers. Our investigator kept his bar receipt, time-stamped 8:00 to 10:20 p.m.

WE WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES WATCHING

The bar's security officer was keeping an eye on him too, and walked him out to the parking lot to make sure he didn't drive. Our investigator asked the officer for a statement.

Weeks later, he gave one: sworn, recorded and on the record, describing that night and others before it.

> ***"He said he'd quit. His own post put him at a beach bar."***

THE PROFESSIONAL VIEW

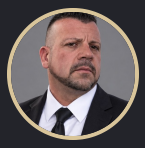
Our in-house Family Social Evaluator, Jasmine Allen, assessed both parents. The final report concluded that his home and lifestyle were not safe or suitable for a toddler.

A YEAR LATER

A judge ordered the fence and the water access secured. More than a year later, we went back to check. It still hadn't been fixed. We photographed it for the court.

CASE CLOSED

His central claim, that he'd quit drinking, was contradicted by video, a bar receipt and a sworn statement. The water hazard was documented, and the court ordered it fixed.



WHY THE RECEIPT MATTERS

Notes say what an investigator saw. A receipt proves when. In court, the small pieces of paper often do the heavy lifting.

FILE 23-07 · TALLY

Boat rides: 1
Bar receipts: 1
Sworn statements: 1
Drinks after "quitting": plenty

CHILD CUSTODY · PANAMA CITY

Bubbles on the Front Steps

A mother was sure her ex was using drugs while caring for their child. We worked 192 hours on a 25-hour retainer to find out. Here's what we found instead.

Our job in a custody case isn't to take sides. It's to find out what really happens when a child is in someone's care. This mother was worried that her ex, we'll call him Travis, was using marijuana while caring for their child, sometimes stepping away to smoke, and driving impaired. She sent us the names of people she believed were selling to him.

LONG DAYS

We set up across from his apartment with live-feed cameras and ran shifts of 12 to 16 hours. We logged dozens of dog walks, and every one reads the same way in our report: not observed smoking. We logged trash runs, a pizza delivery and a neighbor dropping off food.

EVERY LEAD, CHECKED

We checked the addresses of every person the client named, at random times. He was never seen at any of them. We watched his truck at work. He never went out to it.

BUBBLES

One afternoon he sat on the front steps blowing bubbles while his child played. Another day, the child played outside with the neighbor kids.

EVEN AFTER THE MOVE

When he moved, we followed. He loaded bags into his truck bed; one turned out to be from walking the dog. His short trips outside while the child was in were to the trash cans. On our last day, he took his child out to dinner at a chain restaurant and went home.

CASE CARD · 23-08

CLIENT	A mother and her family
SUBJECT	"Travis," the child's father
TEAM	Jacob Nolin, Joe Perrigan
RETAINED	25 hours
WORKED	192 hours
RESULT	Concerns not supported

CLOSED

BY THE NUMBERS

192 hours of surveillance

167 of them at no charge

0 times seen smoking

0 visits to anyone named

CASE CLOSED

The evidence did not support the concerns. We referred the family for professional parental evaluations, so the court would hear from an expert too.



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INFIDELITY · A SMALL GULF COAST TOWN

The Golf Cart Getaway

He swore it was just drinks with a woman he'd met at a bar. Then he drove out of her garage at the wheel of her golf cart.

Lisa found an email about a beach trip her husband had never mentioned. She confronted him, and the woman he'd met at a bar months earlier. Both denied everything. The woman even told Lisa they'd just had a few drinks and swapped numbers.

A HOUSE WITH NOBODY IN IT

Her husband was supposedly staying at a friend's empty vacation home, maybe driving the friend's Jeep. Day one, we watched that house from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Jeep sat under an overhang wearing its car cover. Day two: still nothing. The house looked empty because it was.

THE PIVOT

Joe Perrigan dug into the other woman and found a house she had recently bought. We split three ways: one investigator on her house, one at her business and one still on the vacation home.

4:40 P.M.

Her garage door went up, and out came her golf cart, with Lisa's husband at the wheel and the woman in the passenger seat. They rode to a restaurant, walked in holding hands and sat at the bar with another couple. Then more bars, live music, a cuddle in the golf cart before heading home, and an overnight stay.

GROCERIES

Two days later the couple came home with groceries. To us, that looked like an ongoing relationship, not a first date. And the missing car? He'd flown in, and she picked him up at the airport.

CASE CARD · 23-09

CLIENT	"Lisa," a wife
SUBJECT	"Rob," her husband
TEAM	Three investigators, led by Jacob Nolin; analyst Joe Perrigan
RETAINED	25 hours
WORKED	60-plus hours
RESULT	Infidelity confirmed

CLOSED

THE GIVEAWAYS

1	car cover nobody touched
1	golf cart
2	hands held
1	grocery run

CASE CLOSED Infidelity confirmed: hand-holding, overnight stays, a golf cart and a grocery run, all documented on video.

INFIDELITY · THE EMERALD COAST

The Only Car in the Lot

Two days of watching an empty home over New Year's. Then an investigator went up to a hotel rooftop, looked down and spotted one car parked where nobody was supposed to look.

The call came between Christmas and New Year's. Our client believed a woman, we'll call her Nora, was in a relationship she was keeping very quiet, and that the man was at her place right now. Could we start right away?

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EMPTY HOUSE

For 48 straight hours, through New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, we watched her home. Nobody came in. Nobody went out. Her car never showed up. Either she was the quietest neighbor on the coast, or she wasn't home.

TWO RESORTS, ONE TIP

Then the client got a tip: she might be at one of two resorts near Destin. We got a gate pass and grid-searched parking lots, garages, restaurants and bars. Nothing. So we sent an investigator up to a hotel rooftop to look down.

ONE CAR

From the roof he could see a gated overflow lot at the far end of the property, open only with a room key. It held exactly one car. Hers, with a hotel parking pass on the dash. As our team moved in, Nora and a man walked out with luggage and a dog. They had just checked out, and drove straight back to her place.

HIS OWN KEY

The next day the man drove off alone in her car, came back and let himself in with his own key. From that afternoon until we wrapped up two days later, neither of them left. The door opened once, for a food delivery.

CASE CARD · 23-10

CLIENT	Private, by request
SUBJECT	"Nora"
TEAM	Led by Jacob Nolin
RETAINED	30 hours
WORKED	101 hours
RESULT	Relationship confirmed

CLOSED

HOW TO HIDE A CAR (BADLY)

1. Park in the farthest lot.
2. Pick one that needs a room key.
3. Make sure it's the only car there.
4. Forget that hotels have roofs.

CASE CLOSED 101 hours on a 30-hour retainer. The hidden car, the checkout, his own key and two days indoors, all documented. Our report: the two appear to be in a relationship.

WITNESS LOCATE · PANAMA CITY

The House With No Number

Five phone numbers in three years. A house with no number, on a street with no numbers, blurred out on the online map. Our job: find the man.

An Orlando law firm needed a witness to an accident, a man in no trouble at all, at a deposition. His last address was a house under construction. One past employer had closed. Another "didn't remember him." Two more never called back.

PAPER FIRST

We ran database reports, pulled court and traffic records and sent records requests to local law enforcement. Meanwhile, the firm's paralegal reached an old boss: the man had moved in with his brother at a corner house nearby.

One small problem, the boss warned: there are no numbers on the house, or on the street. Also, his phone number had changed five times in three years. We checked the online street view. The house was blurred. Of course it was.

3:30 P.M.

So we did it the old-fashioned way: drove out, found the corner and waited. At about 3:30 he pulled in from work, confirmed who he was and talked with us. Pleasant, cooperative and very clearly not excited about a deposition.

THE TRASH CAN TIP

Our report gave the firm the address, a map (no house number, remember) and one practical tip: serve him in the late afternoon, preferably after he brings in his trash cans. Pickup is Mondays and Thursdays.

CASE CARD · 23-11

CLIENT	An Orlando law firm
SUBJECT	"Earl," a witness to an accident
TEAM	Jacob Nolin, Joe Perrigan
CLUE	A corner house, no numbers
RESULT	Found, face to face

CLOSED

EARL, BY THE NUMBERS

5 phone numbers in 3 years

0 house numbers

1 blurred street view

2 trash days a week

CASE CLOSED

Found with 100 percent certainty, by a face-to-face conversation, plus a plan for serving him.

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EMPLOYEE THEFT · PANAMA CITY BEACH

Company Truck Date Night

A business owner suspected an employee was stealing. What we caught included a dog, a date and a man moving the very cameras that were watching him.

The owner of a small service company had a bad feeling and a few grainy security clips: an employee hanging around the shop after hours. He wanted to know what was walking out the door, and whether anyone else was involved.

TWO PLACES AT ONCE

Joe Perrigan built the background file. Then we ran two 12-hour operations at the same time: one team on the employee's home, one on the business.

DATE NIGHT, COMPANY TRUCK

On his days off, and in the middle of the night, the employee used the company pickup as his personal ride. Twice he was recorded picking up a woman at his home and driving her around. A large dog rode along too. The dog also came to work. The dog, to be fair, did nothing wrong.

CAMERA SHY

Back at the shop, he was recorded repositioning, tampering with and disabling the security cameras. Then he came back to the closed business in the middle of the night to collect items he had set aside earlier.

THE TANK

One day he left an expensive tank of supplies sitting outside the building to pick up later. He never came back for it. That same day, he was arrested on an unrelated charge.

CASE CARD · 23-12

CLIENT	A local service company
SUBJECT	"Duane," an employee
TEAM	Jacob Nolin, Joe Perrigan
HOURS	About 132
RESULT	Termination recommended; referred to law enforcement

CLOSED

SIGNS OF INTERNAL THEFT

1. Cameras moved, blocked or switched off.
2. After-hours visits nobody can explain.
3. Company vehicles used off the clock.
4. Inventory staged near doors.
5. Small items that keep going "missing."

CASE CLOSED About 132 hours of surveillance, video of every step, a recommendation to terminate and a referral to law enforcement.

CASE SHORTS

Short Cases, Long Days

Not every case needs two pages. These four didn't: a Pokémon hunt, a bike rally, a wristband search and a very thorough napkin.

QUICK FILE · PANAMA CITY

Gotta Catch One

A family asked us where a relative was disappearing to during the day. Their tip: she'd be at a park playing Pokémon Go. So we swept two parks full of phone-waving Pokémon hunters, plus one wedding, looking for one woman. Not there. Days later we found where she'd been going: a coffee shop, in employee training. The big secret was a new job.

QUICK FILE · PANAMA CITY BEACH

Thunder Beach, Ring On

A wife suspected her husband would meet another woman during a big motorcycle rally. We were set up at his condo by 6 a.m. Tip: tailing one motorcycle through rally traffic is like following one seagull. We lost him, then found him that evening at a saloon, chatting with everyone and flirting with no one. He left alone, loaded his bike and headed home early. Wedding ring on the whole time.

QUICK FILE · A FLORIDA RESORT

Wristbands Required

A mother believed her children were in Florida with their father during her court-ordered time. The resort was private, and wristbands were required. We got ours the proper way, then grid-searched crowded pools and a packed beach for one family. We found them, and documented the children with their dad, on her time.

QUICK FILE · PANAMA CITY

The Napkin Inspection

A client needed every use of a café's logo documented. Our investigators went in as lunch customers and photographed the signs, menus and a receipt. Then they checked the cups, napkins, to-go bags and dessert boxes. Jerry West will tell you: you haven't lived until you've inspected a napkin in the line of duty.

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