




INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT GROUP, INC.

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Just a quick note in case you are in need of a private investigator. Although ISG specializes in surveillance and investigations within the Product Liability and Personal Injury field, our Investigators are trained to handle criminal investigations, background checks, and child custody cases.



Our knowledgeable and experienced team of investigators is ready to assist you regardless of the type of investigative services required.

The experienced and dedicated staff of ISG contributed to this newsletter. Thank you for reading our newsletter and if you have any suggestions, please contact me at 954-755-4611 or send an email at alan@flisg.com.

Alan Payton
President
Investigative Support Group, Inc.
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FREE CONSULTATION - 877-784-2469

Winter 2013

The Investigative Report

Good News and Information from your Friends at the Investigative Support Group

The Case of the Lady Looking for Love

It started with a phone call. A woman, her voice trembling. She was desperate and needed help right now. She told me she had fallen in love with a man in just a few short weeks. After sharing so much with each other since, she started developing doubts about him. She wanted me to conduct a thorough background investigation on him, to find out "if he was real".

I agreed to take the case, and was then stopped in my tracks when I asked her to describe the subject. She said she couldn't. They had never met.

I traveled to my new client's home. As I got out of my car, she ran out and hugged me, thanking me for coming to her aid. She lived in a beautiful gated community in central Florida. She had a good job with a Fortune 500 company. But she was lonely. A marriage of twenty years had failed, and despite attempts from friends, she was unable to meet someone. She then turned to the internet.

The two biggest scams on the internet involve love or money. There are numerous dating sites offering the chance to find true love. There is also the anonymous email we have all received from "royal families" in some small African country, promising you thousands of dollars if you can assist them in getting money into the United States using your banking information. In our client's case, both scams came together.

It started out innocently enough, looking through some dating sites before choosing one that promoted itself as a "faith based" site. Thinking that all of the members were of her faith and could be trusted, she signed up. Using chat rooms the site provided, she began an online relationship with a man who seemed to be a dream come true – religious, hard working (a broker of gems), and looking to fill the same empty void she had.

They eventually started speaking on the phone, and shared secrets with each other, building a trust. Pictures were exchanged and she couldn't believe how handsome he was. In no time he told her he loved her. She felt the same. There was only one thing keeping them apart – he needed cash to complete a large deal involving vast amounts of gold, and he needed to finish business before he could fly in to meet her. She offered to send money.



The client shared her dating news with friends and they warned her not to send money to a man she had never met and knew so little about. At this point every alarm should have gone off in the client's head, but she was lonely and love struck. Without telling her friends, she wired the money. In a few days the subject did not arrive. Another call came. He needed more money and she complied. Over a few weeks time she had wired tens of thousands of dollars to various locations across the country and internationally. Still no knight in shining armor at her front door. Then she contacted the **Investigative Support Group**.

Looking into the client's case it was discovered that the faith-based site she used was a ruse. It was not affiliated with any religious organization. Background checks were not conducted on the members and it was easy to create a fake profile.

A background check on the subject proved to be a false identity. His name belonged to a man deceased and his home address did not exist. There were identifying items in the photographs of the "love of her life." Her man stated he was from a eastern European country and the photographs were of a man in a mid-west city.

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South Florida 954-755-4611 / Statewide 877-784-2469 / Tampa 727-515-4141

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Fortunately the client kept record of all of the financial transactions involving the subject. Looking into the transactions, some of the money was picked up in banks by people with valid identities. Background checks on the people involved showed ties to a company with numerous middle eastern and African ties.

The case is now being pursued by law enforcement and the client learned a very hard and expensive lesson. [See "Protect Yourself from Dating and Romance Scams"]



Although I consider myself fortunate to have chosen such an exciting and satisfying profession, I also occasionally see my clients experience sadness and heart-break. Unfortunately, it's inherent in the job. Recently, a client asked me about my thoughts about the Newtown Tragedy. After conversing a while on this unthinkable event, she asked me how to explain the situation to her 9 year old daughter if she eventually mentioned it. I was taken completely off guard. I politely explained that I was a humble private investigator, not a therapist, and truthfully, didn't feel qualified giving advice, especially in this sensitive area. That being said, I felt compelled to at least give her some direction.

The next day, I spoke to one of my ISG's consultants, who ironically, for 28 years, has worked as a school crisis interventionist. Of course, I took this opportunity to ask him what I could have told that parent the day before. He explained that understandably, it can be very difficult to discuss tragedies or loss to a child. There are so many questions a child can ask, and some of those questions really put parents in a difficult spot. His advice? **Simply focus on your child's feelings!** Don't worry about providing exhaustive explanations. Rather, listen to what the child is really saying. What feelings do you hear? Sadness? Confusion? Maybe even anger? In other words, you'll always be safe if you focus on what they are feeling and not what they are asking....Practical advice; and you don't have to be a therapist!

—Alan Payton, President,
Investigative Support Group, Inc.

Protect Yourself from Dating and Romance Scams

- **ALWAYS** consider the possibility that the approach may be a scam. Try to remove emotion from your decision making no matter how caring or persistent they seem.
- Talk to an independent friend or relative before you send any money.
- **THINK TWICE** before sending money to someone you have only recently met online or haven't met in person.
- **NEVER** give credit card or online financial account details to anyone by email.
- Be very careful about how much personal information you share on a social network.
- If you agree to meet someone in person, tell family and friends where you are going.
- When possible, avoid any arrangement with a stranger that asks for an up-front payment.
- If you think you have provided account details to a scammer, contact your bank or financial institution immediately.

Do You Need An Accident Investigation?

A comprehensive accident investigation can be the key to a successful case. ISG's experienced investigators can make the difference.

Contact us at 877-784-2469 or info@flisg.com

On the Lighter Side

A jealous husband hires a private detective to check up on his wife. The husband tells the detective, he wants both a written account and as many videos of her in any kind of compromising situations as the man can get. Two weeks later the detective calls the man and tells him he has all the evidence he needs. They make an appointment for a meeting. The two of them are sitting there watching the videos. The man sees his wife meeting another man, then the two of them are walking in the park laughing. Another series shows her with a different man laughing and dancing. All together, he watches a dozen or so different activities, each with a different man, each time both she and the man are sharing obvious utter glee. "Amazing," said the shocked husband, "simply amazing! I just can't believe it." "What can't you believe?" asked the detective, "It's all right there for you to see, plus I have all the times and dates in my log." "I know, I know!" said the man, still in shock, "I just can't believe my wife could be that much fun."



Cheating Spouses - Valentine's Day

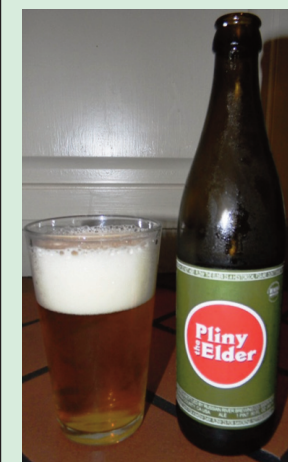
When you think of Valentine's Day you think of love, romance, gifts, candy, flowers and time spent with your spouse/partner. When a Private Investigator thinks of Valentine's Day, he thinks of cheating spouses and infidelity. It's no surprise that Valentine's Day is the busiest time of the year nationally for private investigators. For many clients, hiring a private investigator is the key for gaining peace of mind after weeks or months of stress and wondering if a spouse has been unfaithful.

Some signs of infidelity may include the following:

- Changes in hygiene and clothing. A spouse might get a new hairstyle, and begin wearing new and trendier clothes.
- Asks about your schedule more often than usual.
- Makes secret telephone calls, emails or text messages. Do you notice your spouse retreating from the room frequently when taking a call?
- Cell phone calls from you are not returned in a timely fashion. Does your spouse typically pick up your calls when at lunch, or "out with some friends"? Not taking your calls is a surefire sign a spouse may be where they shouldn't.
- Acts preoccupied or distant when with you. This can be reflected in a number of ways, like showing signs of guilt or brooding.
- Does not want you in their vehicle. A spouse could be worried that a different perfume or cologne might be detected, or a discarded receipt from a restaurant discovered.
- Suddenly has a number of new social or sexual interests. Are new or unique requests being made in your bedroom? It could be the of experiences during a tryst with another.

The private investigators at the Investigative Support Group, Inc. always use discretion and respect with every case and investigative services are always 100% confidential. We realize that your pain and fear are real; therefore each ISG Investigator takes an empathetic approach to each case they accept.

Travels of the PI Beer Guy



Since I travel the state to work on cases, on my off time, I enjoy a good craft beer. This column is dedicated to those times

Jacksonville, Florida

While conducting an accident investigation in Jacksonville, I came across one of the best Beer bars in the state. Kickbacks Gastropub. Kickbacks had 80 craft beer taps, along with a brick decor throughout the bar. The staff was friendly and the owner talked to me for awhile. During our talk, we discussed hoppy beers. He went into his back room and opened up a bottle of Pliny the Elder. This beer is brewed by the Russian River Brewing Company in California. It is an American Double/Imperial IPA. It's the #1 rated beer in the world by BeerAdvocate. It is 8% alcohol and It is well-balanced with malt, hops, and alcohol, slightly bitter with a fresh hop aroma of floral, citrus, and pine.

The owner told me he brought back a case of it from California. This beer is only brewed one time a year and is not distributed in the East. It was an amazing hoppy beer. Thank you, Kickbacks!