



Why Use An Investigator?

The People's evidence is just a starting point.

Items and information will be missing that you need to know.

Common Investigator Services

Prioritize evidence that is time sensitive or may take time to obtain.

- Locating missing clients **3-Hr. Limit** (Database Searches, Social Media, Fieldwork, etc.)
- Witness interviews* (Client, Defense, Prosecution.)
- Video (Locate, Obtain, Review.)
- Crime Scene visit (Canvass, Measurements, Photographs.)
- Obtain Cell Phone Records
- Social Media Research
- Obtain Medics//School and/or Work Records
- Subpoena Service

Securing An Investigator

Locate an investigator on the IDSD list. [investigator-reference-list.pdf](#)

Contact Investigator, explain case and investigative needs

Discuss number of hours needed, give timeline and submit an IDSD Request for Services.

YouTube Tutorial: [IDSD Investigator and Expert Service Request Training](#)

Once approved, send an engagement letter.

<https://www.waynecountymi.gov/files/content/mainsite/v/27/government/departments/indigent-defense-services/programs/investigator-and-expert-program/investigator-engagement-letter-example.pdf>

Send investigator materials for review along with tasks to complete (if interviewing witnesses, provide specific topics/questions.)

Regularly check status of investigator's work and findings.

If Investigators Testify

- Include the investigator on your witness list.
- Prepare the investigator's testimony, being careful to address any inconsistencies of witnesses.

Special Considerations:

Before your investigator conducts interviews, discuss whether they should take witness statements. Upon request, you must provide the prosecution with any verbatim statements (written and recorded) of witnesses you intend to call at trial. (**NOT** your client's statement). An investigator's summary/notes of an interview **IS NOT** a statement.

Practical Tips for Defense Counsels

- Clearly document the investigator's role and how it will assist the defense.
- Ensure the investigator's scope is narrowly tailored to the case.
- Keep records of all communications and approvals for compliance audits.
- Use the investigator to gather evidence, interview witnesses, and prepare exhibits, but avoid duplicating work already done by the defense team.

Thank you for using investigators.