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Detective, private investigator, special agent, spy are all names given to a person/s who basically does the investigative work. Special agents and spies basically work for the government agencies and the detectives or private investigators work either for an agency or are self employed. There are numerous fields where we need an investigator. Now-a-days detectives specialize in a particular domain and work only in that area. They train themselves for that field and use modern techniques to solve related cases.

There are many branches in which a detective can contemplate based on their background and training. One can specialize in homicide, robbery, burglary, auto theft, organized crimes, finding missing person/s, juvenile crime, corporate crimes and many other private works. You should hire a detective accordingly.

Albeit different fields, the basic work of all the investigators are somewhat similar. Their techniques and methods may differ but the modus operandi is mostly same. They separate fact from fiction. They find a proof of wrong doing and help to make the situation right again. They are not law enforcement officials. Their job is to collect information and not arrest/prosecute criminals.

They ask questions and do routine investigation by interviewing the suspect/witnesses. A detective always keeps a camera and a notebook handy. They even check the records and documents of the person/organization. Surveillance is one of the basic things they are trained for. In simple words, it means following a target and keep a check on where s/he goes and whom they meet.

After the street work comes the forensic part .They check finger prints and use lie detectors if required for forensic evidence. The lie detector records the change in heart rate, breathing and the blood pressure. A chemical called luminol is used to illuminate even a smallest bit of blood which is not visible to the naked eye. DNA (de oxy ribonucleic acid) is a genetic material which is in every cell that makes up a persons body. The detectives can identify a person using his/her DNA. They can even tell the time of death of the deceased using various means. Lastly, they put two and two together and give their opinion on the case.

In short, the basic maneuver of any detective is to conduct investigation, analyze the evidences and lastly report the findings to the client.

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