

LexisNexis® Case Study

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

**Real-Time Crime Solving with
LexisNexis® *Advanced Investigative
Solution***



Case Study

Real-Time Crime Solving with LexisNexis® Advanced Investigative Solution

Overview

The mission of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is to promote public safety and strengthen domestic security by providing services in partnership with local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies to prevent, investigate, and solve crimes while protecting Florida's citizens and visitors. Headquartered in Tallahassee, FDLE conducts independent investigations and coordinates multi-jurisdictional and special criminal investigations with local, state, and federal authorities in four key investigative focus areas: major drugs, violent crime, public integrity, and fraud/economic crime.

The Case: Child Abduction

Special Agent Chris Woehr is assigned to the economic crimes squad. When calling a former colleague to check on the status of a case, the colleague mentioned that a baby was just abducted from the maternity ward of a local hospital.

Local police responded immediately, locking down the hospital and establishing a perimeter. However, they believed the suspect had already exited the hospital. The police had a description of the car, including the age, make and model (a blue Chevy blazer) and a partial license plate number—the first three digits of the tag. The Sanford Police Dept. issued a "BOLO" (Be On The Look Out) alert for the vehicle based on this information.

Upon hearing the news, Special Agent Woehr approached Robin Sparkman, an Information Manager/Analyst at FDLE, with the vehicle description and partial tag information. Ms. Sparkman entered the information into the dFACTS system, FDLE's moniker for their investigative solution developed with the *LexisNexis Advanced Investigative Solution* platform. Ms. Sparkman used the three known characters to run a "wild card" search—a powerful feature which can produce license plate and vehicle matches based on incomplete information. Ms. Sparkman received an initial list of five vehicles with the same first 3 characters, four of which were in central Florida. One vehicle was registered to a female in the city that the abduction took place.

FDLE utilized an additional source to get a description of the woman and they were able to preliminarily match the description with the suspect in less than 10 minutes. Ms. Sparkman and Special Agent Woehr relayed the information back to the investigators who were able to match the driver's license photo of the suspect with surveillance camera footage from the hospital.

Industry

Law Enforcement

Organization Profile

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Situation

Special Agent Chris Woehr of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement was informed of a child abduction from the maternity ward of a local hospital. Police responded immediately but the suspect had already left the area of the hospital. With a description of the vehicle and a partial tag to go on, speed was crucial in identifying the suspect before they got too far.

Solution

FDLE used the three known characters from the license plate to run a "wild card" search in the *Advanced Investigative Solution* system for vehicles that matched the description the police had. Five vehicles matched the search, one of which was registered to a woman in the city where the abduction took place.

Results

FDLE matched the description with the suspect in less than 10 minutes and relayed the information back to police who matched the driver's license photo of the suspect with surveillance camera footage from the hospital.

This information aided police who conducted a traffic stop and found the infant boy unharmed in the suspect's car.

Police in the region had been on the lookout for the vehicle from the BOLO alert, and a unit in neighboring Lake Mary responded that they had spotted the car and were conducting a traffic stop. At this time, the unit was advised of the identification and match, and the police found the infant boy unharmed in the suspect's car.

Solution

The entire incident transpired in about one hour and 15 minutes – from the time the police were called to the hospital until the time they recovered the infant.

LexisNexis® *Advanced Investigative Solution* is a web-based tool that integrates public records and law enforcement data sets to help instantly uncovering leads that would normally take days or weeks to track down manually. The solution can assist in locating people, detecting fraud, uncovering assets, and discovering connections between associates. As a result, the system helps shorten investigation time, free up valuable staff, minimize costs associated with lengthy investigations and, in some cases, save lives.

LexisNexis® *Advanced Investigative Solution* tools were designed by a team of former investigative professionals, including a former Director of the U.S. Secret Service, former Special Agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigations as well as officers from various municipal police departments.

Conclusion

Typically the Child Abduction Response Team (CART) handles child abductions and they were contacted following the initial report, however due to the swiftness of the response, the team was not utilized. Using the *Advanced Investigative Solution*, FDLE information analysts obtained a list of 24 vehicles within five minutes, enabling them to further narrow down the initial matches based on vehicle description and solve the crime quickly.

To learn more about LexisNexis® Investigative Solutions, call 1-866-242-1440 or visit lexisnexis.com/government



The use of technology in this case led to the swift recovery of the child unharmed.

