

Case Study:

Florida Department of Law Enforcement Solves Child Abduction Case 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. 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 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.

The Challenge

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.

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 and a partial license plate number. The Sanford Police Dept. issued a “BOLO” (Be On the Look Out) alert for the vehicle based on this information. Upon hearing the news, Agent Woehr approached Robin Sparkman, an analyst at FDLE, with the vehicle information. She entered the information into the dFACTS system (FDLE’s name for their investigative solution developed with the LexisNexis® Advanced Investigative Solution platform). Ms. Sparkman used the three known license plate characters to run a Wild Card search—a powerful feature which produces license plate and vehicle matches based on incomplete information. She received a list of five vehicles, four of which were in central Florida. One vehicle was registered to a female in the city where the abduction took place.

FDLE utilized an additional source to get a description of the woman and was able to 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. Police had been on the lookout for the vehicle and a unit in the neighboring city of Lake Mary responded that it had spotted the car and was 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.

The Solution

The LexisNexis Advanced Investigative Solution is a web-based tool that integrates public records and law enforcement data sets to help instantly uncover 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.

The Results

Using the Advanced Investigative Solution, FDLE information analysts obtained a list of five vehicle matches within minutes, enabling them to further narrow down the initial matches based on vehicle description and to solve the crime quickly. 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.

For more information:

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The Florida Department
of Law Enforcement
was able to match
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with the LexisNexis®
Advanced Investigative
Solution platform.



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