

# LexisNexis® Case Study

Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department

**Making the Case With (and for)  
Accurint® for Law Enforcement**

June 30, 2008



ADVANCED GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS

Intelligence  
Analysis

Investigative

Screening &  
Identity Verification

Research

Case Management

Digital Asset  
Management



LexisNexis®

# Case Study

## Making the Case With (and for) Accurint® for Law Enforcement

### Overview

Located on the western shores of Lake Michigan, Sheboygan County is home to over 120,000 full time residents and countless commuters and visitors every day. The county Sheriff's Department is responsible for administering twenty-four hour law enforcement services to this constituency. Its mission is to protect and enhance the quality of life in Sheboygan County by working cooperatively with its citizens. Every day the department strives to provide the highest professional level of law enforcement and corrections services to the public, preserve the peace, enforce the law, reduce the fear of crime and provide needed services to the community.

### The Challenge

In mid-May 2008 Lieutenant James Risseeuw of the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department received an initial report of an attempted sexual assault and forced confinement of an 18-year old woman. The victim had fought off her attacker and the suspect had fled the scene.

Working with the responding officer Lt. Risseeuw learned that the victim knew her attacker and had previously babysat his children. The lieutenant was able to gather a general description of the suspect, his first and last name and a description of the vehicle used to flee the scene. From a description of the crime-scene he also learned that the attacker had been particularly violent and brutal.

These facts painted a troubling picture. The suspect had already tried to commit a horrific act of violence against an individual who knew him. The lieutenant feared that – on the run and with his identity known to the police – the suspect may commit additional acts of violence and may return to the victim to finish what he had started. With this in mind Lt. Risseeuw knew he needed to apprehend the suspect quickly.

A 20-year veteran of the department, Lt. Risseeuw knew that apprehending a suspected felon under these circumstances could take several days. An investigation entails researching the suspect using the department's files, calling known associates and relatives and accessing multiple data sources to retrieve disconnected pieces of information (including criminal histories, active warrants and so on).

Investigations are complicated by a variety of factors including the fact that Wisconsin driver's licenses are only renewed every ten years (during which time much can change), and the fact that the department only has direct access to records stemming from incidents in its jurisdiction.

### Industry

Law Enforcement

### Organization Profile

Sheboygan County is home to over 120,000 full time residents, countless commuters, and visitors every day. The county Sheriff's Department is responsible for administering twenty-four hour law enforcement services to this constituency. Its mission is to protect and enhance the quality of life in Sheboygan County by working cooperatively with its citizens.

### Situation

In mid-May 2008 Lieutenant James Risseeuw of the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department received an initial report of an attempted sexual assault and forced confinement of an 18-year old woman. The victim had fought off her attacker and the suspect had fled the scene.

### Solution

Lt. Risseeuw and his colleagues had been evaluating an investigative solution from LexisNexis® Advanced Government Solutions called Accurint® for Law Enforcement. "The moment the call came in I knew this was a perfect case to test Accurint. If Accurint would be able to provide a lift to our investigative efforts, this was the type of case that would reveal it," said Lt. Risseeuw.

### Results

The Sheriff's Department fed the information from the investigative officer into Accurint. In seconds they identified the suspect's home address, his ex-wife's name and her home address, and his cell phone number. Following up-to-the-minute information on the suspect's cell phone usage, this information combined to trace the suspect's likely path of travel. Shortly thereafter, the suspect was apprehended and in jail.

Suspects residing outside of the department's jurisdiction are identified through the laborious process of checking Department of Transportation (DOT) records and contacting the county or state where the individual resides for more information.

"Using traditional information sources and investigative methods it could take us several days to acquire enough information to determine where a suspect might be heading or hiding out," said Lt. Risseeuw. "Under the circumstances that's a long time. Dangerous suspects such as this need to be apprehended quickly, before they can cause additional harm."

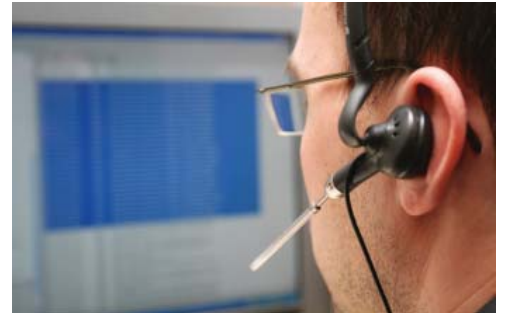
### **Solution**

For several months leading up to that day in May, Lt. Risseeuw and his colleagues had been evaluating an investigative solution from LexisNexis® Advanced Government Solutions called Accurint for Law Enforcement. During investigations that paired them with the U.S. Marshals—users of the solution—the Sheriff's department had been impressed with the comprehensiveness of the information accessible through Accurint, the speed with which information could be accessed and its overall accuracy.

The department had never subscribed to a similar solution in the past, but Accurint continued to be recommended by colleagues. As a result they agreed to a 14-day free trial; a trial that began three days before the attempted assault.

"The moment the call came in I knew this was a perfect case to test Accurint," said Lt. Risseeuw. "We had partial information on a suspect who resided outside of our jurisdiction and a need to catch the suspect quickly. If Accurint would be able to provide a lift to our investigative efforts, this was the type of case that would reveal it."

Accurint for Law Enforcement is a cutting-edge investigative technology 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. The solution is a Web-based tool that enables law enforcement to quickly locate suspects, find missing children and solve cases quicker by providing instant access to a comprehensive collection of public records data that would ordinarily take days to collect using ordinary investigative methods. As a result, Accurint for Law Enforcement helps shorten investigation time, free up valuable staff, minimize costs associated with lengthy investigations and, in some cases, save lives.



**“ Using traditional information sources and investigative methods it could take us several days to acquire enough information to determine where a suspect might be heading or hiding out. Under the circumstances that’s a long time. Dangerous suspects such as this need to be apprehended quickly, before they can cause additional harm. ”**

**James Risseeuw**  
Lieutenant, Sheboygan County  
Sherrif's Department

Lt. Risseeuw fed the information he received from the investigative officer into Accurint. In seconds he identified the suspect's home address, his ex-wife's name and her home address, and his cell phone number. Lt. Risseeuw was also provided with the suspect's legal history, which included a restraining order obtained by the ex-wife based on a history of domestic abuse.

Lt. Risseeuw obtained a court order providing him with up-to-the-minute information on the suspect's cell phone usage. Because they believed the suspect was headed out of state to his home in Illinois the Lieutenant engaged the U.S. Marshals who contacted and interviewed the ex-wife. This information combined to enable Lt. Risseeuw to trace the suspect's likely path of travel. Shortly thereafter, the suspect was apprehended and in jail.

### **Benefit**

The entire investigation transpired within 24 hours, from the moment the call came in to the moment the suspect was in custody. More importantly, the suspect was apprehended before any additional crimes could be committed.

"In a case such as this we need a lot of information to get started," said Lt. Risseeuw. "Everything from a date-of-birth to a phone number goes in to building an investigatory and evidentiary chain. Using our traditional resources an investigation such as this would take a minimum of three days. With Accurint providing us the starting point, we completed it in less than 24 hours."

As a result of this case Lt. Risseeuw and his colleagues were able to make the case for Accurint within the department. It is currently the only resource of its kind that the department subscribes to.

"We have a good reason to believe that the suspect would have stopped at nothing to prevent the victim from testifying," said Lt. Risseeuw. "It was nice to call her 24 hours after the assault and tell her the guy was in custody. It also made spending money on a non-budgeted item like Accurint an easy sell."

**To learn more about LexisNexis® Investigative Solutions, call 1-866-242-1440 or visit [lexisnexis.com/government](http://lexisnexis.com/government)**

**“ In a case such as this we need a lot of information to get started, everything from a date-of-birth to a phone number goes in to building an investigatory and evidentiary chain. Using our traditional resources an investigation such as this would take a minimum of three days. With Accurint providing us the starting point, we completed it in less than 24 hours. ”**

**James Risseeuw**  
Lieutenant, Sheboygan  
County Sheriff's Department