

Oliver Investigations

Date: June 6, 2023

The Honorable Senator Steve Wilson
Statehouse, Senate Building
Columbus, OH 43215

Senator Wilson,

I am contacting you about Senate Bill 100. This bill pertains to the use of GPS tracking devices. First, a brief explanation of my training and experience. I am a retired police chief. Subsequent to retiring, I spent 5 years as the Loss Mitigation Manager for a Fortune 500 company. Currently, my wife (a retired police detective) and I own and operate Oliver Investigations. My four-year degree is in criminal justice, with my master's being in management and leadership.

We have extensive experience with GPS tracking units, particularly finding them. We located one in a client's vehicle two hours prior to her being killed by her estranged boyfriend.

This communication is to advise there are appropriate uses for these devices in the private investigation profession.

Private investigation is not some dark operation, conducted in the shadows by operatives wearing trench coats. In fact, many of the investigators in Ohio have years of experience, high ethical standards and use cutting edge technology to assist those who fall through the cracks in our justice system.

For example, an appropriate use for a GPS unit could involve someone who is being stalked, or who is protected by a court order, or for an employee who has been terminated and threatened violence.

In any of these incidents, law enforcement usually does not have the staffing or funding to provide around the clock protection. Operationally, a licensed private investigator, at the request of the protected party or victim, could utilize a GPS unit in this case. Most GPS units have to ability to use

geofencing to secure a building, house or even neighborhood. In these cases, the GPS unit alerts the subscriber of the subject being present close to the potential victim. Investigators can then provide this information to the victim/client and law enforcement.

One personal observation. I do not know of any investigator who utilizes GPS units for nefarious purposes. I've not heard of these being used in infidelity cases or low-level investigations. Private investigators, in my circle, operate as a safety net, helping to secure clients and investigate matters that policing lacks the manpower and funding to follow through on.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

David Oliver
Owner
Oliver Investigations