

# Surveillance Technology: New Boundaries, New Horizons

*New technology presents new surveillance opportunities.*

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Investigators spend a great deal of time watching. Cheating spouse cases, child custody investigations, and worker compensation cases can all turn on a good on-site surveillance report. Surveillance, historically limited to stakeouts and property inspections, is changing rapidly. Nowadays, a private investigator needs expertise in interpreting online activity, GPS tracking and public recordings.

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The new technology presents new surveillance opportunities, including the following.

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*John A. DeMarr, PI*

**Social Media:** The key to online investigations is social media. People say the most revealing things on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, etc. Birthdates, family members, photographs, vacation plans, physical whereabouts at a certain point in time, even evidence of a crime – all of these can be gathered by the savvy investigator. And even when specific facts remain hidden, social media postings can lead the investigator to the answer, or narrow the search for information. It’s all about putting together the pieces of a puzzle.

**GPS and Tracking Devices:** Location tracking goes way

beyond hopping in a taxi and telling the driver “Follow that car!” Modern GPS technology allows small devices to be attached to cars or trucks, and shows where the vehicle has been driven. This can show a pattern of suspicious activity, or a spouse violating a restraining order, or an individual checking into a motel. The U.S. Supreme Court has held that using tracking devices without a warrant

constitute an illegal invasion of privacy. See: [U.S. v. Jones, 565 U.S. 400 \(2012\)](#). But a registered owner can consent to placing a tracker on a car. An employer can too, for a company-owned vehicle. These exceptions can frequently allow a tracker to be placed, and GPS information gathered.

**Listening Devices:** Audio recordings are limited by state laws. In some states a recording can be made if one party consents to be recorded during a conversation. In California, recording takes all parties' consent, but only applies to confidential communication. See: [Cal. Penal Code § 632\(a\)](#). Arguably, this rule does not apply to conversations taking place in public, in restaurants, or in loud voices a bystander could overhear.

**Video Recording:** All states outlaw using hidden cameras to look inside a dwelling, or any private space. But video recording in public places is acceptable. And since smart phones now record video, sometimes it only takes holding the camera up where it can be seen, to remain permissible. This is often done to record process service.

When you are involved in a court case, you frequently need admissible evidence of the other party's actions. This can include surveillance information. A savvy, responsible private investigator can usually obtain legally-permissible evidence, and knows the pitfalls to avoid. John A. DeMarr, P.I., provides experienced surveillance investigators to fulfill this role in your case.

Sources:

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We can steer you through the process of investigating your case in California, across the United States, in the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

John A. DeMarr, P.I.,  
877-493-3463 Toll-free 877-493-3463.  
[www.demarr.com](http://www.demarr.com)

John DeMarr  
John A DeMarr, P.I.  
877 493 3463  
email us here

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