

Cheating — “Should I hire an Investigator?”

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*Eagle Data Service, LLC team members Specialize in Domestic Relation
“Cheating Spouse, Boyfriend/Girlfriend, Significant Other” cases.*

Unfortunately we live in a world where vows and commitments no longer mean what they should and once did.

Today statics show that 57 % of men and 54 % of women **admit** to cheating on their spouse or significant other. Sadly 74% of men and 68% of women admit that they would have an affair if they thought they would not get caught.

It is important to point out that infidelity not only affects your emotional well being but your physical health as well. The fact is that with the increase of STD's today, not knowing if your spouse is being unfaithful is like playing Russian roulette with your life. It is your health – You have every right to know.

The following are a few signs to look for (a guide, if you will) to help you determine if your spouse or significant other may be cheating on you.

- In the beginning of an affair the spouse that is cheating may be more attentive to his/her husband/wife. The increase of attention is usually because the cheater is feeling some degree of guilt at this stage.
- Change of Appearance: Cheaters will definitely be more attentive to their grooming habits. (The way they dress, frequent showering, physical fitness, grooming style of their hair, switching colognes, shaving or grooming the beard, etc...). Female cheaters tend to make more underwear and lingerie purchases. Men tend to change cologne or pay extra attention to shaving or grooming their beard. Let's face it if they no longer try to look good for their spouse then when they are away from home for extended periods of time and “extra” grooming becomes a priority there is usually someone they are trying to impress!
- What about the vehicle he/she drives: Does he/she spend more time cleaning the car? Is there a sudden desire to purchase a new vehicle or to get rid of personalized vanity plates?
- Has there been a change in sex life, for example more sex, less sex, or unusual sexual requests?
- Is there sudden interest in new activities or even music? For example, the gym or dancing lessons. Red flag if it is an activity you have been trying to get him/her

to try for years but now he/she is suddenly interested in it - without you!

- Cell Phone. Does your spouse hide his/her cell phone or bill? Does your spouse insist on having a separate cell phone account? When you do take a peek at your spouse's phone have the call history and/or have the text messages been deleted? Are there vague contact details in the phone book? Single letter contact information for the name?
- Computer. Does your spouse spend a huge amount of time behind closed doors on a computer? Does he/she exit out of a screen when you enter the room? Is he or she nervous if you ask to use his/her computer?
- Does your spouse "find" or "look" for reasons to argue with you? After an affair has been going on for an extended period of time the cheater usually seems to find fault with the spouse or significant other as a way of trying to justify the affair. Or it may also be a way to try to justify "starting" an affair. I call this the Distraction Phase. The non-cheater may get consumed with trying to figure out why the spouse seems so angry or visit the self-help isles in book stores trying to figure out how they should be a better spouse.
- The cheater may change his/her attitude toward household members. Do you hear, "If he/she didn't act or do this then maybe I wouldn't act or do these things."? The cheater tries to make it YOUR fault he or she is the way they are and doing the things they do.
- When taking phone calls at home, does your spouse tend to speak softly, whisper or give a quick answer and immediately hang up when you enter the room? Does he/she go to another room to talk on the phone? Do you receive hang up calls when you answer the phone? (This may be "The Other" trying to reach your spouse or as odd as it may sound it could be "The Other" trying to get up the courage to inform you of the affair.)
- Another sign of a cheating spouse is "Financial Discrepancy". Has the spouse opened separate accounts? If you have joint accounts that you can access, have there been unexplained or discrepancies in check stubs, bank account balances, credit card bills, debit card purchases, unusual amounts of ATM withdrawals.
- A cheating spouse may not show interest in attending family functions or holiday gatherings. They may want to attend office parties or friends' parties alone stating something to the affect of, "You wouldn't enjoy it anyway, or I just plan to make a quick appearance then leave." Both may be excuses to keep you away from his/her work associates!
- Normal household activities may slip to the bottom of the cheaters priority "To Do List" (Lawn, household repairs, non-cheating spouse vehicle repairs)

- Last but not least, the biggest sign is your Intuition or your gut feeling that something is not as it should be. You should take into consideration how long you have known your spouse or significant other and ask yourself, “What is out of the ordinary?”

If your spouse has exhibited some of the behavior listed above **it is important not to confront the suspected cheater**. Confrontation will only cause them to change or be more aware of their behavior patterns which will make it more difficult to find out what is really going on. Use of a professional Private Investigator may seem unrealistic and only something they do in the “movies”, however professional Private Investigators can assist you to find the answers you need in a discreet manner.

Not quite sure if you should hire a professional just yet? Here are a few tips you can do yourself and a few Do not's. These steps will provide useful when and if you decide to hire a Private Investigator.

- Start a journal & calendar to document unusual activities, document date and time and if known, places. You may want to monitor your spouse for two weeks. In your journal keep track of the mileage on their car, the time they leave for work and the time they return home. This should help you establish a pattern. If you are told that he/she is working late, does your spouse's paystub reflect the overtime he/she tells you he/she is working? If you call his/her place of employment is he/she there or do you reach his/her voicemail? If he/she returns a call to you is it from his place of employment or his/her cell phone?
- Some Physical signs to look for to determine whether or not someone is having an affair include traces of lipstick or foundation on clothing, the scent of unknown cologne or perfume on clothing, and as gross as this may sound check underwear for secretion stains. You can also check their jacket, clothing, wallet, purse or glove compartment of their car to see if they left receipts, pieces of paper or napkins with phone numbers, addresses, condoms, un-explained keys, items left in a vehicle by another person, etc. Make note of anything unusual in your journal.
- Document any unusual phone calls and if possible obtain detailed cellular billing to determine patterns and answers to the following questions: Who is the first person he/she calls in the morning or right after they leave for work? Who is the last person they call before they return home from work or before bed?
- DO NOT confront the suspected cheater. I know I am repeating myself here but it will only make it more difficult to get to the truth.
- NEVER (not even in a heat of the moment argument) NEVER *threaten* to get an investigator or tell the suspected cheater that you are going to follow or have him/her followed. Again this may cause the person to change their recent patterns.

If you would like to schedule an appointment to speak with a Domestic Investigation Specialist at **Eagle Data Service, LLC** please call **804-516-0547**. We know this can be a painful and difficult time and we understand that this call may be one of the most difficult, but necessary, calls you will need to make.

In an effort to end this article on a positive note, I would like to say that hiring a professional Investigator can help to either confirm or dismiss your suspicions and give you either the tools you need for a better divorce/custody arrangement OR *in the best case scenario*, to provide you with peace of mind if there is no solid evidence of an affair.

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