

Digital Forensics Lab Business Plan for Divorce Investigations

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Introduction

The average divorce rate in California is 7.45% which is about 90 people out of 1000 according to Haye's family law. With so many divorces taking place, it is better to have our own forensics team instead of using an outside group. As we know, most divorce cases use digital evidence, such as e-mail, spreadsheets and documents. This business plan outlines the necessary steps, considerations and investments to establish a digital forensics lab for the law firm, reducing the dependency of external investigators. The primary goal is to enhance efficiency, confidentiality and cost-effectiveness in managing digital evidence.

Problem Statement

Currently, the law firm employs outside groups for digital forensic services, which leads to a higher cost, more delays and potential risk to data confidentiality. An in-house lab will address these issues and enable faster turnaround times, confidentiality and reduced investigation costs.

Objectives

- Establish an in-house digital forensics lab
- Ensure secure, confidential handling of digital evidence
- Reduce outsourcing costs (relying on and paying outside groups)

Key Considerations

Forensic Lab Requirements

The lab should be capable of handling the following

- Data Acquisition: Secure extraction of e-mails, spreadsheets and documents.

- Data analysis: Examination of digital evidence as well as recovery of digital evidence.
- Data preservation: Safeguarding evidence to ensure that it remains unaltered.
- Each workstation gives the team member 180 square feet of space

Required Hardware

- Workstations: High-performance computers with sufficient processing power for handling large data sets and running forensic tools.
- Secure Server: A server for storing case files and evidence with access controls, encryption and backup functionality.

Required Software

- Forensic Analysis tool: Software such as EnCase or like analyze digital evidence.
- Email Forensics tool: Applications specifically designed for email investigation to recover deleted emails and analysis of email.
- Spreadsheet Analysis Tool: Tools for auditing spreadsheets to identify fraud in financial data.

Cost and Budget

Item	Description	Estimated Cost
Workstations	4 high-performance PCs	10,000
Forensic Software	EnCase	9,000
Email forensics Software	Magnet Axiom or similar	5,000
Spreadsheet Analysis	Auditing and analysis software	4,000
Secure Server	Encryption-enabled	6,000
Chairs	Ergonomic	3,000
Desks	Height adjustable	4,000
Total		41,000

Implementation

- Phase 1 (1 month): Purchase and set up of hardware and software
- Phase 2 (3 weeks): Staff training on forensic tools and practices
- Phase 3 (Ongoing): Handling cases in-house and regularly updating tools

Conclusion

Investing in a digital forensics lab for the handling of divorce investigations will reduce costs over time and ensure better control over sensitive information. Long-term, this is the best way to keep both the law firm and its clients happy.