



THE LITTLE THINGS MATTER

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It is interesting how the little things we would normally overlook or otherwise consider unimportant or unlikely will be the very things that turn out to matter most in a case. I will give you an example of what I am talking about. We were recently working on a case where we were asked to locate an individual that is suspected of charging up to \$7,000.00 at a LA club using a fake ID and credit cards. We were provided copies of a California Drivers License with a picture of the subject and credit card receipts with a thumb print. First, we noticed several discrepancies on the ID. Ok, run the number through DMV, no record of course. Law enforcement could not run the partial thumb print because the copy of the print was not viable. Dead end alright. We run a search on the name and found no record. Of course not. We really didn't expect to find much on someone involved in a scam like this, but for the sake of being thorough we take a look at the address on the license. The street name appears to be spelled phonetically. For instance, a street named Fiilmord instead of Fillmore. Ok, so we take a closer look at this just to see. We find an address that is very close. This is not a likely scenario but it's all we have. We check out the location and run a few plate numbers at the address and find that one of the names is similar to the name on the ID. Well, ok. We set up a surveillance believing our luck could not be this good. After all, who would be that stupid? Right? A few days of random surveillance and guess what? An individual closely resembling the subject pictured on the ID comes out and empties his trash. A quick call to the law enforcement agency in charge of this case and tell them what we found and we add this to the world's dumbest criminal file. This guy used his real address on a credit card scam. Needless to say the client is very pleased and of course we look very good to them. I wish I could take credit for using some super secret investigator skill on this but really, all we did was follow up on the little things no matter how insignificant or unlikely it would seem and ended up with a favorable result. But, that's just the way we do it. The little things matter.