

TLOxp CASE STUDY

Locating 'Doodlebug': How PI Robin Martinelli rescued a kidnapped child

An interview with Private Investigator, Robin Martinelli



In 1998, veteran legal services worker Robin Martinelli achieved a personal milestone by receiving her private investigator's license. Though it started small, today her licensed private investigation agency, Martinelli Investigations, Inc., works out of a world-class office, employs 12 private investigators and is renowned throughout her home state of Georgia after handling more than 5,000 cases.

TransUnion recently caught up with Martinelli to ask about a recent, high-profile kidnapping of a two-year-old child she solved with the help of TransUnion's TLOxp[®] search and locating technology.

THE SITUATION

A man and his young fiancée had a child, but when the relationship soured she absconded with the child from Georgia to parts unknown. The bereaved father hired Martinelli Investigations, Inc. to find the child, whom he affectionately referred to as "Doodlebug."

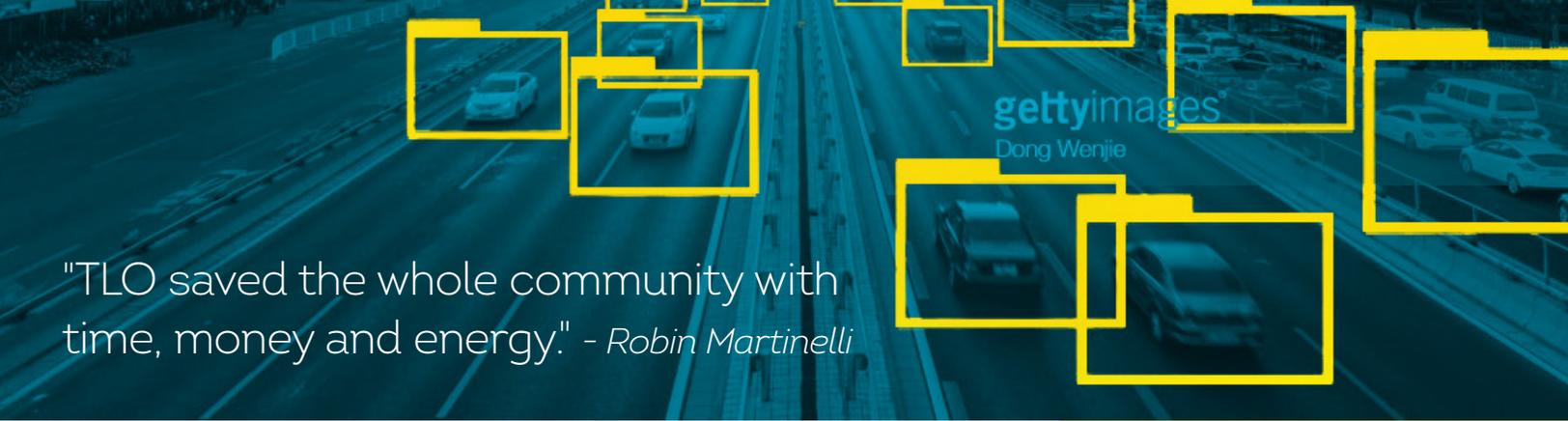
At one point, using TLOxp's Vehicle Sightings feature, Martinelli spotted the mother's vehicle in California. But then the trail went cold, and with no results one year and eight months later, Martinelli was close to telling her client there was nothing more to pursue.

THE SOLUTION

Acting on her expert instinct, Martinelli decided to look up the mother's car one more time with TLOxp's Vehicle Sightings feature.

"And lo and behold," exclaims Martinelli, "there's the fiancée's car in Arizona! She hadn't changed her car or its tag. I quickly confirmed she was still there, and in a very nice house, no less."

Papers were served to the mother, and Martinelli herself accompanied her client to Arizona. The mother fought in court, but ultimately the father prevailed, gaining back custody of Doodlebug.



"TLO saved the whole community with time, money and energy." - Robin Martinelli

"Without TLOxp's Vehicle Sightings data we would have never seen this child again, ever. I mean, they were heading to Australia. They had passports," she says. "TLOxp had this child's life in its hands. Without it the child would be lost." Martinelli had made a promise to the family that she would bring the child home, and with TLOxp's help she kept that promise.

As she recounts the case, Martinelli seems relieved that she managed to reunite a family, and that this case would no longer plague her conscience as "the one that got away."

Client Due Diligence: Screening out Bad Apples

Martinelli and her team use TLOxp in many contexts, even to screen clients. She'll run routine TLOxp background checks on potential clients even before they come to her office.

"If somebody tells me their name and they come in and give me a different credit card, a different address, a different ID and nothing matches up, I just kindly walk in and say, 'We're booked! There's a lot of shady players out there trying to utilize investigators for bad reasons, and we have to stay sharp to avoid that.'"

The power of historical data

Martinelli also described another recent case regarding a woman claiming disability. "This lady was just a ghost, an absolute ghost. We'd done everything we thought possible, and still had zero clue where she was."

Delving into TLOxp's historical data, which suggested the woman frequented the same gym and coffee shop every day, Martinelli discovered the truth in just a matter of minutes. Martinelli sent a private investigator to that gym and there she was, working out, despite claiming \$20k a month in disability. Another case solved for Martinelli.

THE CASE IN A NUTSHELL

- **A father hired Robin Martinelli to locate his two-year-old child**
- **The mother disappeared out of state with no leads**
- **Mother's vehicle located in Arizona using TLOxp Vehicle Sightings**
- **Father regained custody of the child**

Use Vehicle Sightings to:

- Spot patterns by plotting multiple sightings for the same vehicle
- Uncover the most likely locations of search subjects
- Reveal predictive travel patterns
- Identify potential associates, relationships and contacts
- Reach subjects who are actively avoiding contact

TLOxp key benefits

- Mix of latest and historical data
- Cross-referenced by powerful search engine
- User-friendly interface, amazing customer support
- Reasonable pricing for any size of business

"TLO is essential to me, has the best, quickest most essential information that is reliable for the best price." - Robin Martinelli

Her single, best tool

Ultimately, Martinelli appreciates TLOxp for offering the best product in a competitive market. "Out of all the competitors, TLOxp has the most frequently updated and accurate information. It's very quick, it's easy to use, and it guides you," she says. "And the customer service is great. There's a rep you can call for assistance whenever you need to."

She considers TLOxp's bulk pricing an asset, too, enabling her agency to run searches whenever needed, without worrying about racking up excessive access fees.

One thing that sets Martinelli apart from other PIs, it's not just about the money.

"TLOxp helps free people. My information has literally freed people of spurious charges. In my opinion, TLOxp really saves lives," she says. "I don't know how any private investigator could be effective, could be productive, and be up to date if they didn't have TLOxp. Period."

"If I had to choose between a full-time employee and TLOxp, well, I'd have to choose TLO." Perhaps that says it all.

HOW WILL TLOXP VEHICLE SIGHTINGS HELP YOUR INVESTIGATIONS?

To start locating people with TLOxp Vehicle Sightings, please visit www.tlo.com/vehicle-sightings for more information or to request a free trial, call [800-856-5599](tel:800-856-5599).

HOW DOES VEHICLE SIGHTINGS WORK

- Instantly view actual and historical license plate data
- Get time, date and exact location stamps for each sighting
- With a single click, watch location data come to life with TLOxp's integrated online mapping tools
- Plot sightings at national and state levels with the precision to drill down to cities and neighborhoods
- Access a massive database of more than 2 billion vehicle sightings with up to 50 million sightings added monthly