

TLOxp CASE STUDY

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

An interview with Licensed 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 search and locating technology, Martinelli located 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.

"And lo and behold," exclaims Martinelli, "we located the fiancée's car in Arizona! She hadn't changed her car or its tag."

"Without TLOxp's data we would have never seen this child again, ever. I mean, they were heading to Australia. They had passports," she says.



"Without TLOxp's data we would have never seen this child again, ever..." -

Robin Martinelli

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.

"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 licensed 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 was located in Arizona using TLOxp's search and locating technology**
- **Father regained custody of the child**

TLOxp INFORMATION USED IN THIS INVESTIGATION

- **360° profile:** From basic information like names, phones, emails and addresses to detailed data on employment, aliases, assets, criminal history, bankruptcies and more.
- **Vehicles:** TLOxp vehicle searches return information from even partial vehicle descriptions and VIN numbers.
- **Partial data searches:** You can enter partial information from addresses, SSNs, telephone numbers and more. Search by location radius or age range. Even enter a phonetic name spelling, and TLOxp narrows the search to the fewest possible options.

"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 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 PI's, 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 HELP YOUR INVESTIGATIONS?

To start locating people with TLOxp search and locating technology, please visit www.tlo.com/investigators or to request a free trial, call [800-856-5599](tel:800-856-5599).

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TLOxp ADDRESS REPORT

Discover all known current and historical details associated to a specific address.

- Residents and neighbors
- Phones and emails at the address
- Driver's license information
- Current and past vehicles
- Properties associated with the address
- Weapon permits
- Liens, judgments, bankruptcies, foreclosures
- Possible criminal records
- Businesses associated with the address

TLOxp RELATIONSHIP REPORT

Save investigation time by running one report connecting multiple people.

- Discover new links between subjects including shared assets, phones and properties
- Find facts that are missed when working with separate reports
- Eliminate bad leads before they become costly
- Pull a single report to explore any relationship

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