

Program: Criminals Can Disappear & Change Identity

Speaker: Greg Wright, Certified Fraud Examiner, CFP

Introduced By: Hank Wolfla

Attendance: 114

Guests: Paul Kellogg, Eric Peterson, James Stohler, Glenn Bingci, Ed McKinley, Martha Boon, Mike Donnelly, B Chabenne

Scribe: Dick Garrett

Editor: Ed Nitka

Gregg Wright is an excellent speaker and we have been lucky enough to hear him two times now. His first talk was given on 10/9/2017 and was titled: *Protecting Yourself Against Identity Theft and Fraud*. He will speak again on April 9th, 2018 about committing fraud.

He mentioned something today that was key in his last address; something we should all remember. From 33% to 40% of our country's social security numbers are used by more than one person. This caused me to "lock up" my number soon after hearing that statistic.

His last talk focused on what happens to someone when their identity is stolen. This talk focused on how a criminal can change their identity and background data and reappear back in society with a well-documented dossier of official looking but fraudulent papers. He points out that the prison system is where the skills and knowledge is available to teach convicts how to cleverly change identities.

At the beginning of his talk he asks if any of us have ever Googled ourselves on the web? He says you may be surprised at what you find. You quickly see how difficult it is to be sure that you get the correct person if you Google someone. It is for this reason that inexpensive (\$18) background checks used by schools and others to "vouch safe" volunteers are not useful. You never know you have the correct person. To be more confident you must move into the \$100 range for such checks.

He discussed a maintenance person hired by Ohio State University who passed a cursory identity check, because he submitted an incorrect birthdate, but who was a convicted felon. This person later shot several folks after he was fired.

In some states, anyone can apply for and receive both birth and death certificates without a reason. With these two documents, a person can develop the information to allow them to get official papers in many states. He went on to describe the series of steps a person would utilize in order to set themselves up as a person with official documents who worked for a fake company with a fake web site. All of this documentation will look very official to most people who do not look deeper into the person's background. There are groups that sell fake diplomas, fake companies and their associated papers, build fake web sites, etc. It is a dangerous world out there.

The talk had more examples but he asked me to not divulge too much data to the public, so I will omit some detail.

His parting comment; generally, we can count on FBI identity checks. They are very thorough. Expect to spend \$100 on such a review.

It is clear that the modern technology we employ is a two-edged sword – it can do great good as well as great harm.



Greg Wright