



WHAT IS FORENSICS?

Forensics is the application of science to legal matters. In other words, it is the interpretation of scientific matters or issues in the language or manner understood by the trier of fact.

By trier of fact, I am referring to the jury or judiciary officer who is sitting in a competent court of law.

Science in relation to forensics refers to globally accepted scientific methods and processes in crime solving.

FORENSIC INVESTIGATION DIAGRAM



It is argued that forensic discipline is multi faced, therefore for any forensic investigation to be meaningful, forensic practitioners should work in unison, I mean as a team and they must be continuously trained to meet the changes in

the global village. Otherwise, we shall continue to chase the wind or doing catch and release game.

COMPONENTS OF FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

Technical Surveillance Counter Measures (TSCM)

Refers to technical audit of the company's security systems with the aim to detecting bugs/eavesdrops through bug sweeping.

Forensic auditing

Refers to examination and evaluation of firms and individuals' financial information for use as evidence in a court of law. It involves examination of legalities through investigative financial audits.

Cyber Forensics/Computer Forensics

These are laid down scientific process structured to reconstruct past events from an electrical device in original form through collecting, analysing, preserving and present evidence before a competent court of law using laid down scientific techniques and tools.

Fraud Specialist/Fraud Examiner

This is the examination of financial relationship and data and therefore proactively evaluating the fraud risk of the business or organisation in order to detect and prevent fraud.

Forensic Accounting

This is the understanding, collation, reporting and analysis of financial data using accounting, investigative skills and procedures at a level acceptable to the legal system. In other words, forensic accounting refers to financial investigation within the limit of the courts of law.

The two main roles of a forensic practitioner are evidence gathering and legal assistance in a manner that is legally acceptable (forensics).

“Whatever he steps, whatever he touches, whatever he leaves even unconsciously will serve as a silent witness against him. Not only his fingerprints but his hair, fibres from clothes, the blood or semen he deposits or collects. All of these and many more bear witness against him. This is evidence that doesn't forget. It's not confused by the excitement of the moment. It is not absent because human witnesses are. It is factual evidence. Physical evidence cannot be wrong, it cannot perjure itself, and it cannot be wholly absent. Only human failure to find out, study and understood it can diminish its value” **Dr Edmond Locard**

The burden of proof, burden of production and burden of persuasion rest on the shoulders of forensic practitioners. In other words, the evidence gathered must be as clear as milk and should be able to communicate with the trier of fact precisely.

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