

Newsletter February 2019



Video Camera Doorbells and how this affects Process Serving

Process servers and individuals alike have historically opened doors without knowing what – or who – is on the other side, save for the ability to look through a peephole or side window. But that has slowly been changing with the advent of video camera doorbells and home surveillance systems.

Affordable, self-installed home monitoring systems are certainly on the rise. The new systems not only come with cameras and alarms but the ability to see and speak with the visitor through wireless technology without answering the door – and without even having to be home.

The question that this new technology presents to the process serving community is how will this affect our business?

Service Complications

This new technology certainly has its advantages for homeowners and it presents unique challenges for process servers. E.g A process server could ring a video doorbell and a voice comes over the internal speaker, identifying themselves as the defendant, stating they were not in and that nobody else was in. The documents could then be explained but could they then be left at the address? Certainly not if personal service was required.

Evasion of Service Becomes Easier

Further complicating matters, recipients now have an added warning when a process server arrives. This gives individuals the ability to hide and obscure their whereabouts from process servers to successfully evade service. It is often the element of surprise that makes process servers successful.

Ultimately, camera doorbells make it easier for those wishing to evade service, although a process server who has a subject's mobile phone number could stand outside their house and listen if their mobile is ringing inside when calling them.

Benefits of Doorbell Service

It's not all bad news for process servers, however. The wireless technology has made service easier for some servers. What could have otherwise taken days can be served in a single day. For example, when an individual who is willing to accept service isn't home when a process server arrives, he or she can instruct the server where they are located so that service can be quickly effectuated.

Ring in the Future

It's important that process servers stay aware of changing technology – it could make the difference between one where they need to go back to their client for further instructions or a successful serve.

Source: Lawgical



Case Study

We were instructed by a firm of solicitors to assist in the location of two individuals. Having been successful in tracing them both, our client then asked that we serve documents at exactly the same time on the subjects, so as to avoid any collusion or attempts to avoid service. We coordinated this successfully through our worldwide network of agents. As our client received no response from the subjects, we were subsequently instructed to prepare an asset trace/background profiling report on both of the subjects. The first subject was found to be living in rented accommodation and appeared to have no other properties. However, the second subject owned a property outright in the UK and had a share of a second property in Spain. Both these reports were prepared by our own internal team and gave our client up to date, key information for them to progress the matter further.

New SIRS online trace form

Our clients instruct us in various ways and with this in mind we have designed a secure link through our website for you to let us have your new instructions. The link is below and prompts you to include any potential information you have on a subject.

The link for the Online Trace Form is <https://sirseurope.co.uk/trace-report-form/>

Why not save this in your favourites?

New SIRS website

We have recently updated our website to include our new online trace form as detailed elsewhere in this newsletter as well as our revised logo.

We are now more easily able to update our site and this will include more blogs. Keep checking back at our site to learn more about what we do and how we can continue to be of benefit to you.

Why not take a look: www.sirseurope.co.uk

Keith Stowell

Our long standing Managing Director, Keith Stowell, retired from the business towards the end of last year. He will continue to be a consultant with us and we wish him all the best.

Any new enquiries should be directed to Chris Taylor, our Commercial Director, on 07974 406474.

About this Newsletter

This is the first in an occasional series of Newsletters – if you have any suggestions as to any of the content – please let us know.

Contact: Chris.taylor@sirseurope.co.uk

A few words on Brexit (Sorry)

From SIRS' point of view – there will be no changes to the information we can obtain.

So it's business as usual!