### Chandrawat & Partners

PROTECTING YOUR BUSINESS: A GUIDE TO ASSET TRACING, DUE DILIGENCE, AND INVESTIGATION SERVICES

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## **Asset Tracing**

Recent news of banks auctioning properties and other assets of several high-profile personalities in order to recover their dues, on account of loan defaults, would have made many people wonder just why do these people not pay off their loans by selling their assets themselves.

The reality however is not as simple; many unscrupulous loan defaulters actually go to great lengths to hide their assets in order to claim amnesty. On the other hand, banks also spare no effort in investigating how the loan money was spent and whether it was invested in obscure or hidden assets, and rely on experts to undertake what is known as 'Asset tracing'.



Asset tracing is the process of identifying, locating, and tracking assets that are owned by a person or a business. Asset tracing's goals are to find hidden assets, like those held in shell companies or offshore bank accounts, and to create a clear picture of a person's or organization's financial situation.

Asset tracing is commonly used in situations where there is a suspicion of fraud, money laundering or other financial crimes. Asset tracing is a crucial component of due diligence and risk management, assisting in making sure that organizations and people can make wise decisions based on accurate and thorough financial data.

### **Asset Tracing Services**

Asset tracing services are investigative methods and techniques used to find hidden or undisclosed assets that are frequently used to commit financial crimes like fraud, money laundering, or embezzlement. Professional investigation companies with experience in forensic and financial investigations typically offer these services.

Asset tracing services can be applied in a variety of situations, such as divorce cases, business disputes, and legal proceedings involving financial crimes. These services are also available to people or businesses who believe they may have fallen victim to fraud or other financial crimes. Asset tracing services can be used in a range of circumstances, including divorce cases, business disputes and legal proceedings involving financial crimes. Additionally, those who think they may have been the victims of fraud or other financial crimes—whether individuals or businesses—can access these services.

Asset tracing services aim to find any assets that may have been misplaced or illegally taken, recover them, and prosecute those responsible. Asset tracing can help people and organizations protect their assets and avert future financial crimes by identifying and repairing vulnerabilities in their financial systems.

#### Assets of various kinds, including the following, can be tracked:

**Artwork and collectibles:** These assets can be traced through auction records, ownership records, and provenance research.

**Cryptocurrencies:** Although decentralized, many blockchain-based cryptocurrencies allow for tracing of transactions through their public ledger.

**Financial assets:** These include stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other types of securities. Financial assets can be traced through brokerage records and account statements.

**Inventory:** This includes products that are held for sale by businesses. Inventory can be traced through sales records and purchase orders.

**Jewelry and precious metals:** These assets can be traced through sales records, appraisals, and ownership records.

**Real estate:** This includes land, buildings, and other types of property. Real estate assets can be traced through property records, such as deeds and mortgage documents.

**Vehicles:** Cars, boats, and other vehicles can be traced through registration and ownership records



# Techniques & Tools used for Asset Tracing

Asset tracing can be a complex process that requires a number of methods and devices. Some of the methods and resources frequently employed for asset tracing include:

### **Data Analytics**:

Data analytics tools are increasingly used in asset tracing. These tools use algorithms to analyze large amounts of data and identify patterns and connections that may help locate assets.

#### **Digital Forensics**:

Digital forensics is a crucial asset tracing tool, especially in cases of fraud or cybercrime. To help locate assets, digital forensics experts can examine digital evidence like emails, financial documents, and computer logs.

#### **International cooperation:**

When assets are hidden in offshore accounts or in foreign countries, asset tracing can be particularly difficult. In such circumstances, international cooperation, including informationsharing agreements and treaties on mutual legal assistance, can be used to assist in locating assets.

#### **Legal Process:**

Legal tools such as subpoenas, court orders, and search warrants can be used to obtain information that can help trace assets.

#### **Public Records:**

Gathering data from public records is one of the most popular methods for asset tracing. This entails investigating land records, tax records, business filings, and court records.

## **Due Diligence**

Before engaging in a business transaction or forming a partnership, people, businesses, or organizations must conduct due diligence, which is a process of research and analysis. In order to make an informed decision, it is important to weigh the risks and rewards of a potential opportunity or investment. This is the goal of due diligence.

Due diligence is a critical step in mitigating risks and ensuring that businesses and individuals can make informed decisions based on complete and accurate information.

The operations, financial statements, legal agreements, intellectual property, and other pertinent documents of the target company are typically thoroughly examined. In order to better understand the company and its operations, due diligence may also entail interviewing important stakeholders, such as customers, employees, and suppliers.

In many business transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and partnerships, due diligence is a crucial component. In addition, it can be applied to stock offerings, real estate deals, and other kinds of investment opportunities.



## **Due Diligence Services**

Due diligence services are a thorough and organized process of looking into, analyzing, and confirming the veracity and completeness of information pertaining to a specific business deal, investment, or contract. A thorough examination of pertinent financial, legal, operational, and other documents is usually part of this process, which also includes speaking with important stakeholders.

The purpose of due diligence services is to identify and assess the risks and benefits associated with a particular transaction or investment, and to ensure that individuals and organizations have a clear and accurate understanding of the facts before making a decision.

The provision of due diligence services is possible in a range of situations, such as mergers and acquisitions, investment opportunities, and real estate deals. To make sure that people and organizations are abiding by the law, they can also be used in legal cases, such as in the context of regulatory compliance. Due diligence services are an important tool for individuals and organizations looking to protect their interests and ensure that they are making informed decisions based on accurate and complete information.





## **Overview of Types of Due Diligence**

Asset due diligence : In order to assess the quality, quantity, and value of a company's assets, it is necessary to conduct extensive due diligence on those assets. To identify any potential risks and opportunities related to the assets being purchased or invested in, asset due diligence process is typically carried out during mergers, acquisitions, and investment transactions. To find any problems that might affect the ownership or value of the assets, the process entails a thorough examination of financial records, tangible assets, intellectual property, and contracts, among other things.

**Environmental due diligence:** It is the process of looking into and evaluating any possible environmental risks connected to a real estate or business transaction. Environmental due diligence seeks to identify potential liabilities, regulatory concerns, and other environmental risks that might affect the property's or the company's value. The results of the due diligence investigation are utilized to guide decision-making and to guarantee adherence to environmental laws and best practices.

**Financial due diligence:** It is the process of reviewing a company's financial statements and records in order to evaluate its financial standing and spot any potential financial risks connected to a deal or investment. It is a crucial component of any business transaction because it enables stakeholders, including investors, lenders, and other parties, to make decisions based on accurate and complete financial data. The purpose of financial due diligence is to give stakeholders a clear understanding of the company's financial situation so they can make decisions that are well-informed and complete.



**Human Resources due diligence:** It refers to the process of assessing the opportunities and risks related to people associated with a business deal or investment. The goal of Human Resources due diligence is to find any potential problems with the workforce, including labor relations, employee benefits, and employment contracts, as well as any potential liabilities from lawsuits or other claims involving employees. Reviewing personnel files, payroll records, employment contracts, and other pertinent documents are typically included in the HR due diligence process.

**Legal due diligence:** A transaction's or business's legal risks are evaluated through the process of legal due diligence. To make sure there are no legal concerns or liabilities that could have a negative impact on the transaction or business, it entails a thorough review of legal documents and information. Legal due diligence typically entails a review of contracts, licenses, agreements, corporate records, and litigation documents, as well as any pertinent laws, regulations, and legal risks related to the industry and location of the business.

**Operational due diligence:** It involves assessing the operational risks connected to a venture or investment. To ensure that the business or investment is being managed effectively and efficiently, a thorough examination of the operational procedures, management structure, and other important factors is required. Operational due diligence typically entails a review of the financial statements, internal controls, supply chain management, IT systems, human resources policies, and other operational factors that could affect the company or investment. In order to increase the value and long-term success of the company or investment, operational due diligence seeks to identify any potential operational risks or inefficiencies and to make recommendations for improvements.

## Significance of Due Diligence in Mergers and Acquisitions ("M&A") and Other Business Transactions:

Due diligence is a crucial part of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and other commercial transactions because it gives a thorough understanding of the target company and aids in identifying potential risks and business opportunities related to the transaction. It entails a thorough examination of the financial, legal, operational, and strategic aspects of the target company, assisting the acquiring or investing party in making decisions about the deal.

Due diligence aids in revealing any potential risks or liabilities associated with the target business, such as pending litigation, environmental concerns, and financial obligations that may have an impact on the transaction's value. It also aids in locating potential areas for expansion and synergies that the transaction might bring about.

Other business transactions, like investments, joint ventures, and partnerships, also require due diligence. It offers insightful information about the target company's financial and operational performance, which may influence the choice to invest and the specifics of the deal.

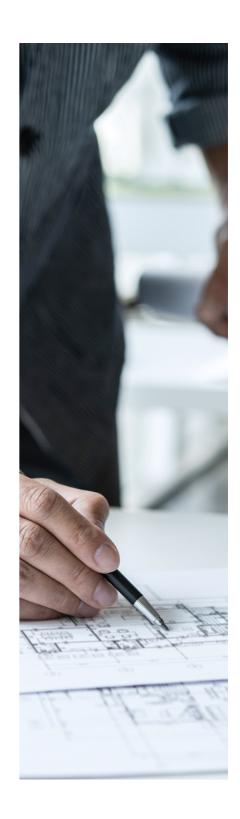
Overall, due diligence is crucial for minimizing risk, maximizing value, and reaching wise business decisions. It aids in ensuring that the deal is well-structured and that the acquiring or investing party is fully informed of all the potential benefits and risks related to the target company. 6

### **Investigation Services**

The term "investigation services" covers a wide range of tasks and methods used to learn more about a situation or issue and collect data. Investigation services may use a range of methods, such as forensic analysis, background checks, interviews, and surveillance. These services can be used to look into a variety of problems, including fraud, embezzlement, theft, harassment, and other types of misconduct.

Investigation services are an essential tool for individuals, businesses, and organizations looking to protect their interests and ensure that their rights are respected.

Whether in a legal or business context, the main objective of investigation services is to unearth information and gather evidence that can be used to make knowledgeable decisions. Investigation services can assist people and organizations in taking appropriate action based on the facts of the case by gathering accurate and trustworthy information that can be used to make decisions.



## **Types of Investigation Services: A Comprehensive Overview**



**Background Checks:** It involves looking into a person's past to learn about their criminal record, employment history, educational background, and other pertinent information. In order to determine a person's suitability for employment, tenancy, or other purposes, they are frequently carried out by employers, landlords, or other parties. In order to complete a background check, information is typically gathered from a variety of sources, including criminal records databases, credit reports, educational institutions, and previous employers.

**Corporate Investigations:** To ascertain whether a company, its officers, or its employees have committed misconduct, fraud, or other illegal activities, corporate investigations involve gathering and examining evidence. These inquiries may be started by the company itself or by outside parties like law enforcement, regulatory bodies, or other interested parties.

**Criminal Investigation:** It involves the collection and examination of evidence to ascertain whether a crime has been committed and, if so, who is accountable. It is a crucial part of the criminal justice system and is frequently carried out by law enforcement organizations like police departments, specialized investigative units, or other governmental organizations.

**Cyber Investigations:** To ascertain whether a cybercrime has occurred and to pinpoint the perpetrators, cyber investigations gather and analyze electronic evidence. Cyber investigations are a crucial tool in the fight against cybercrime and for shielding people and businesses from the damaging effects of cyberattacks. Effective cyber investigations will become increasingly important as long as cybercrime remains a threat.

**Financial Investigations:** Financial investigations are carried out to find financial wrongdoing or fraudulent activities like money laundering, embezzlement, bribery, or other financial crimes. Financial investigations are crucial for preventing and detecting financial crimes, safeguarding the interests of investors and the general public, and ensuring the integrity of financial systems. They are essential to preserving the fairness and transparency of the financial markets as well as making sure that people and companies are held responsible for their financial actions.

**Legal Investigations:** Legal investigations are the process of gathering information and proof for use in court cases like lawsuits, trials, or arbitration. Legal investigations may be carried out by law firms, corporate legal departments, or private investigators and may involve a variety of tasks, such as questioning witnesses, looking over records and documents, and carrying out surveillance.

# **Techniques & Tools Used for Investigations**



**Computer Forensics:** Electronic data collection, analysis, and preservation through a scientific process for use as evidence in court cases. Cybercrimes, data breaches, and other types of digital crimes are investigated using computer forensic techniques. Computer forensics is an important tool in the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime, as it provides concrete evidence that can be used in legal proceedings.

**Data Analysis:** In order to find valuable insights and make judgments, data analysis involves methodically examining and interpreting large amounts of data. Data analysis is an important technique for businesses as it can provide insights into customer behavior, market trends, and operational efficiencies.



**Interviews:** In order to obtain information from witnesses, suspects, and other parties involved in a case, interviews are a crucial technique used in investigations. Interviews are a crucial investigative technique because they give investigators vital information and insights that can aid in case closure and victim justice.



**Stakeout:** Stakeouts are used to collect data that can be used in an investigation, like pictures, videos, or audio recordings. This information can be used to confirm or deny claims, identify suspects, or strengthen legal arguments. Additionally, stakeouts can be used to gather intelligence and details about a target or location, such as who they are meeting with, where they are going, and what they are doing.

## **Benefits of Utilizing Asset Tracing, Due Diligence and Investigation Services**

Due diligence, asset tracing, and investigation services are all crucial because they aid people and organizations in making decisions that are well-informed and based on complete and accurate information.

Finding hidden assets that may have been used to commit financial crimes like fraud or money laundering is made possible by asset tracing, which is why it is important. It is possible for people and organizations to recover stolen or misappropriated funds by taking the proper legal action after identifying these assets.

The importance of due diligence can be summed up by how it aids people and organizations in weighing the advantages and disadvantages of a given transaction or investment. Individuals and organizations can make sure they are entering into a transaction with their eyes wide open and that they are aware of any potential risks or issues by conducting an extensive review of a target company's operations, financial statements, legal contracts, and other pertinent documents.

The importance of investigation services can be attributed to their role in locating data and supporting evidence in relation to a given case or problem. Investigation services can assist people and organizations in gathering accurate and trustworthy information that can be used to take the necessary legal or commercial action, whether they are looking into fraud, embezzlement, or other types of misconduct.

# Advantages of Utilizing : Asset Tracing, Due Diligence, and Investigation Services

For people, companies, and governmental entities alike, asset tracing, due diligence, and investigation services have many advantages. Here are a few of the main advantages:

### **Protection of Assets:**

Asset tracing and due diligence services can help individuals and businesses protect their assets by identifying potential risks and vulnerabilities in their financial transactions, investments, and partnerships.

### **Reputation Management:**

Investigation services can help protect an individual or organization's reputation by uncovering any negative information that could potentially harm their reputation or image.

### **Risk Management:**

Asset tracing and investigation services can help organizations manage risks associated with business deals, partnerships, and investments, by identifying potential red flags and warning signs.

Note- Asset tracing, due diligence, and investigation services can provide valuable insights and support to individuals and organizations, helping them manage risks, protect their assets, and achieve their objectives.

### HOW WE CAN HELP?



Our team of experienced investigators can provide you with a range of services tailored to your specific needs. Our team provides the following legal services :

• work closely with our clients to ensure their needs are met with the utmost professionalism and integrity.

• committed towards providing accurate and actionable information for making informed decisions.

• asset tracing services to identify potential risks and vulnerabilities in financial transactions, investments, and partnerships.

- utilize a range of techniques, including data analysis and background checks.
- provide insights into the ownership and location of assets.
- due diligence services ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.
- reduce the risk of penalties and other consequences.
- conduct thorough investigations to make informed decisions about potential business

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### **Key Contact**



Linked in

#### Surendra Singh Chandrawat

Managing Partner

✓ surendra@chandrawatpartners.com

Connect Surendra on

Linked in





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