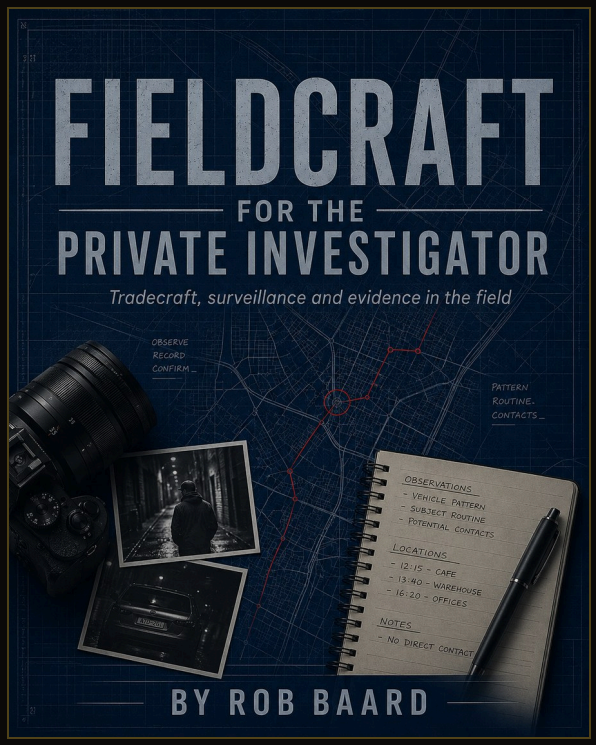
FREE COMPANION GUIDE · FIELDCRAFT

The 3 Duties Every Investigator Keeps

Stay unseen. Stay admissible. Keep fact and assumption apart.



Rob Baard

AUTHOR OF ESCAPE & EVASION · BODY LANGUAGE

THE DOCTRINE

Three Duties. Nothing Else.

The investigator on screen breaks in, bluffs past every door and produces the truth on nerve. In the real world, that person ends up in the dock or out of work. The real craft is quieter, and harder: finding out what is true without changing it, and bringing it back in a form that still stands after someone whose whole job is to destroy it has finished trying.

Strip away the screen version and the work is patient and ordinary. Watching, recording, writing down what happened. Nine hours in a parked car for ninety seconds that matter. The patience is not a personality quirk. It is the method.

Every task in the trade, from the first follow to the witness box, serves one of three duties.

> *Lose the first and there is nothing to record. Lose the second and the record is worthless. Lose the third and you mistake what you assumed for what you saw.*

The Three Duties

This guide walks each duty: what it asks of you in the field, and what breaks it. The full manual takes them through 42 chapters of law, method, case study and court record.

1. **Don't change what you're examining** — hidden, or in plain sight.
2. **Produce evidence that survives challenge** — the record is the work.
3. **Timeline first** — evidence to facts, and label the assumptions.

Then the eleven rules the book never breaks.

DUTY 1 OF 3

Don’t Change What You’re Examining.

Hidden, or in plain sight.

A subject who knows they’re watched behaves differently. A witness who’s led gives you your own words back. A scene you disturb is no longer the scene. This is the observer effect, and it is the enemy of the work. A follow that is exciting is usually a follow that is too close. The good operator is bored, unremarkable, and entirely unnoticed.

What keeps you unseen

— Angle beats distance. From directly behind, a subject who turns catches your face. From across a busy junction, the same turn shows them only traffic.

— Watch without locking on. People feel a stare. Glance rather than fix, use peripheral vision, and never snap your head round when the subject appears.

— Move like anyone else. Motion draws the eye, but a person who never moves is just as odd. Shift like someone waiting, reading or passing time.

— Exposure adds up. The same van outside a house at nine, noon and three is remembered by the whole street. Two shorter watches often beat one long one.

— Keep asking: am I changing what I am watching? If the scene feels different because you are in it, adjust or withdraw.

> *Break rather than burn. A lost subject is recoverable; a burned operation is not.*

DUTY 2 OF 3

Evidence That Survives Challenge.

The record is the work.

Seeing is not enough. What you bring back has to hold when a hostile lawyer pulls at it. The modern investigator is defined less by what they can find out than by what they can prove. A file is only evidence if you can show it is genuine: exactly what the camera captured, unaltered, at the time you say.

Five habits that make the record hold

— Record as it happens. A note made at 09:14 beats the most confident recollection written that evening. Log to the minute.

— Set the clock. Check the camera against true time at the start of every shift. A clock an hour fast puts the subject at the depot an hour early, and a lawyer will make that the case.

— Keep the original untouched. Export, never screenshot. One master per card, locked away. Every crop and note happens on a copy.

— Correct in the open. A single line through an error, initialled. A note that looks tidied helps the other side.

— Keep the chain. Every hand an exhibit passes through, logged and signed. An unexplained gap is where the doubt gets in.

> *Custody is not where cases are won, but it is often where they are lost.*

DUTY 3 OF 3

Timeline First.

Evidence to facts. Label the assumptions.

Most people investigate backwards. They start with what they believe happened and go looking for proof, and because the mind obliges, they find it. Fieldcraft runs the other way. Build the sequence before you judge it, attach the evidence to each point, and let fact and assumption sort themselves out.

The method in four moves

— Events before the verdict. Not “the claimant is exaggerating” but “08:12 left the house; 08:19 loaded a box into the boot; 08:41 arrived at the depot.”

— Mark what you know apart from what you guess. A fixed point you filmed. An estimate, flagged as one. A gap, left open as a gap.

— Pin evidence to points, not theories. The photograph attaches to 08:19, not to “the claim is fraudulent.” A sentence tied to no event is opinion.

— Treat a gap as a lead. “Nothing between noon and two” is tomorrow’s tasking, not a hole to fill with a guess.

> *A labelled assumption can be tested; a hidden one just waits to be exposed.*

THE RULES

What the Book Never Breaks.

Eleven rules. Every chapter holds to them.

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1. **Lawful method only** — no result is worth breaking the law for.
2. **Verify local law before acting** — recording, trespass, privacy and tracking all change at the border.
3. **Don't change what you're examining** — change it and you are no longer examining it.
4. **Break rather than burn** — the moment staying costs more than leaving, leave.
5. **Record as it happens** — write it at the time; never rewrite it.
6. **Keep the chain** — capture to court, unbroken and documented.
7. **Timeline first, then evidence** — belief last, not first.
8. **Label every assumption** — let the reader see the join.
9. **Clusters, not single signs** — one behaviour is a guess.
10. **Never name a liar** — truth and guilt are for the court to decide.
11. **Decline the unlawful brief** — stalking dressed as a case gets refused, and you say why.

> *Verify your local law before you act.*

General education only, not legal advice. Laws on licensing, recording, tracking, privacy and trespass differ between countries and states, and they change. Check the current law where you work before you act.

THE COMPLETE MANUAL

Fieldcraft.

This guide gave you the three duties. The full manual takes them through 42 chapters and five appendices: licensing market by market, the foot and mobile follow, urban and rural observation posts, pretext and the legal line, interviewing, the camera, audio law, the running log and the surveillance report, OSINT, tracking and tracing, counter-surveillance, the casework, real court judgments where investigator evidence was admitted, excluded and contested, and the witness box.

Grounded in published law, the court record and field experience. Worldwide in scope, with Australia, the UK, the USA, Canada and New Zealand as worked examples.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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Rob Baard is a Bujinkan Ninjutsu Shihan and licensed Private Investigator with over thirty years of training. He studied directly under Grandmaster Masaaki Hatsumi in Japan. His documentary on the tradition was screened by invitation at the Togakushi Ninja Mountain ceremony and is now permanently exhibited at the Togakushi Ninja Museum, Japan.

Fieldcraft for the Private Investigator is his working manual for the trade, alongside Stealth & Camouflage and Escape & Evasion.

GET THE BOOKS

The Rob Baard Library.

Fieldcraft is where two lines of his work meet. Stealth & Camouflage and Escape & Evasion teach you to move unseen. Micro Expressions, Body Language and Vocal Tells teach you to read people. Fieldcraft puts both to work, lawfully and on the record.

Fieldcraft for the Private Investigator
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