

POLICE PROSECUTOR UPDATE

July 7, 2010

Monroe County Prosecutor's Office Announces New Cell Phone Search Capability

The Office of Monroe County Prosecuting Attorney Chris Gaal recently received grant funding to purchase the CelleBrite Universal Forensic Extractive Device (UFED). This technology is capable of downloading data from 2,500 different types of cell phones, smart phones, and personal digital assistant (PDA) equipment sold worldwide. The CelleBrite UFED is compatible with all wireless carriers and with approximately 95% of all cellular phones and PDAs on the market today.

“This new technology will now enable us to quickly obtain valuable electronic information, including some deleted information, to assist law enforcement agencies with criminal investigations, and to use as evidence in the courtroom,” said Monroe County Prosecutor Chris Gaal. “We look forward to introducing this new equipment to our local law enforcement agencies and assisting them in collecting valuable information to more effectively fight crime.”

If a law enforcement officer receives a mobile device during the course of an investigation, either pursuant to a search warrant or a signed consent form, the CelleBrite UFED can extract vital information including the following:

- the phonebook
- text messages
- call history (received, dialed and missed)
- deleted text messages (SIM/USIM)
- audio recordings
- video recordings
- pictures
- images
- ring tones and phone details (IMEI/ESN, phone number, etc)

The retrieved data is extracted in a strictly ‘read only’ process, without modifying the original data on the source phone. The data is then generated into an easily read document that can be used as a reference in the courtroom.

In April, the Prosecutor's Office sent an investigator to receive training on cell phone forensics and examinations, and to receive specific training to operate the CelleBrite equipment. If you have a question regarding the use of this new equipment, or wish to obtain assistance in an investigation that calls for the forensic examination of a cell phone, you may contact investigator Allan McBride at amcbride@co.monroe.in.us or call (812) 349-2696.

We look forward to assisting your investigations in this ever changing world of technology