



Justicia Investigations
 Stamford Hill, Durban
 +27 (086) 000 5111
 www.justicia.co.za

Theft of Cash by Employee

The Story:

- At 12h00 a manager from a large casino requested Justicia Investigations to investigate the theft of several thousand Rand in cash from the "Games Centre".
- An investigation was initiated immediately. An analysis of the resort's internal security camera footage revealed two casino employees in conversation in the vicinity near the Games Centre late the previous evening.
- One of the individuals was recognised and confronted. He identified the other individual during questioning.
- The other individual, who worked in the Games Centre, was also confronted and subsequently failed a polygraph test.
- After lengthy questioning, the truth began to emerge and the suspect confessed to theft of cash.
- The suspect's modus operandi was to ensure that he was locked in the Games Centre at closing time without anyone knowing.
- When the premises were vacated and quiet, he emerged from his hiding place and climbed over the partitioning into the Games Centre manager's office where he removed the keys of the coin operated vending machines.
- He altered the direction of the surveillance camera, which was focused on the vending machines.
- He then spent the rest of the evening unlocking or cutting the locks on the various machines and removing the cash.
- The next morning he left the scene when the Centre was opened for cleaning.
- At 18h00 the suspect broke down and took our investigators to the casino to reveal where he had hidden some of the stolen money, which he intended to retrieve later. He then took investigators to his place of residence where the rest of the money had been hidden. All the money was recovered.
- The suspect was charged and detained!
- The manager is ecstatic that the mysterious theft was solved so rapidly.



The Lessons:

- 1) **Never believe everything you see** - why didn't the operators in the surveillance room note that a camera had been tampered with?
- 2) **Never trust anyone** - consider polygraph testing during the recruitment process, especially when employing staff who could be exposed to situations where they could be tempted to steal.
- 3) **Cameras are vital** - but only if their operation is part of a total security package, i.e. to be combined with physical security (guards, investigators) and intelligence (information gathering).

Reg Hoare
 Managing Director

**'Different solutions for
 different circumstances'**