

## Creepy PCs

Has anyone ever had a PC that seemed really creepy? When people call me, I always ask them how they heard about my services for the purpose of tracking what is working and what isn't. So this guy came in through google (most of my clients are through referrals) and he said I seemed like the type of lawyer he would like, which wasn't creepy on its face.

So my office space is downtown and I was planning a move (which has fallen through) so I told him that depending on when we meet, it may be in the space that I'm moving into. The current space is a high-rise right downtown and clients hate it so when he asked about the location I assumed it was because of parking. But then he asked what kind of a building the new building is... weird questions, I'm not sure what that means.

Then he called back and ask if there's a place we can meet that's more on the outskirts of the city... umm dude, I'm pretty sure you're trying to kill me... so I told him that there is a garage right next to my office if he's concerned about parking. And he said how about a Starbucks in the city... so I said, fine and picked one that is right downtown, seems harmless I think. Anyway, does this sound weird/creepy to anyone else?

Have you had weird/creepy encounters?

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Not creepy just strange.

When I was just starting out I was sitting in my office one day when about 5 people walked in. No appointment, nothing, they just jumped in and starting yammering and not making any sense. I broke in and got control and ask them why they were here, eventually it turned out to be a custody issue that none of the group (who I called the Springer Show) had any standing the guy who did was in jail.

After 10 years they're still the weirdest.

Hard to creep me out as I'm pretty big. A former tackle and rugby prop and even though I'm older I still look big enough.

John Davidson, Pennsylvania

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That is strange John! I think he's probably ok, just weird. But we'll

see. I'll make sure I bring back up... I'll have a friend sit at another table and keep an eye on him. I watch too much Criminal Minds I guess.

Fareeda Brewington

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Yes, this is creepy! It's possible that he's just strange, and not actually creepy, but better safe than sorry. Did he give any logical reason for wanting to meet at a Starbucks rather than your office? At best, this guy's demands already make him sound like a difficult PC, at worst, he's a total creepster.

Why go to the trouble of having a friend accompany you to the meeting, as opposed to just explaining that you only meet clients in your office?

I also work in a building where parking is a pain, and it is often inconvenient for PCs. However, clients who really need - and are going to appreciate, and pay for - my services, always manage to find a way to get there.

Betsy Ehlen, Illinois

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I think you're always wise to rely on your "Spidey Sense." What seems creepy to you may seem perfectly normal to someone else, but that's no reason to discount your feelings.

There's a good argument to be made that initial meetings with a new client are somewhat like other on-line initiated contacts (such as dates based on an on-line site). Having your first meeting be something brief in a place where there are other people around (like the Starbucks you refer to) seems like a really good idea.

Brian H. Cole, California

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It could be he has spent his whole life in the country and doesn't do well in cities. It could be he has had bad experiences with something in the city (an ex or the police, for example) that it reminds him of, or that someone has threatened him to stay out of the city. It may be that he has a restraining order out against him related to a person in the vicinity of your office. It could be someone mentally unstable. It could be he was attacked in a building like yours in the city. It could be that he is being unusually

thoughtful and be concerned that you might not have your office ready to receive clients yet. It could be someone who wants to avoid traffic.

There are many possibilities, some of which would not be a problem for you and some of which could significantly affect representation. I would want to understand the reason before accepting them as a client.

Tom White, Washington

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Are you within like 500 feet of a school? Just sayin'...

Seth Crosland

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I too have had some strange clients over the years and some have turned out quite well. I had one who was morbidly paranoid of elevators - an older gentleman from out in the country with a car wreck case. He wouldn't come up to our building but insisted on meeting in the lobby or other places. I kept telling him if we went to court we'd have to take the elevator up to the courtroom. This actually bothered him and was a factor in his settlement decision. But I did make a bit of money off of the case.

Sterling L. DeRamus, Alabama

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I'm with Seth on this one and fortunately, in my state I don't have to worry about the 500 ft. I represent only the criminally accused. They can meet with me on my terms only. I only meet with female clients in our conference room where the secretaries are nearby. Trust must be earned.

On the other hand, if I'm looking for witnesses for a capital murder case, I'll go anywhere. Safety is an issue, especially if you've never met this person.

Eric C. Davis, Alabama

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I had a client, upon getting my confirmation letter, call and cancel entirely, because I'm on the 24th floor. I proposed meeting elsewhere, but she said that simply wasn't workable, and thanks for my time, etc. She was very polite about it, but very clear there was no way she was coming to the 24th floor.

I've had clients ask me to close the blinds, because my office has a windowall.

I've also had clients or potential clients who turned out to be tin foil hat types, and you can't get rid of those fast enough...

I'm not talking mere conspiracy theorists, but people who honestly believe their every conversation, indoors or out, is being recorded via satellite, and proving their case will be easy, once we subpoena the recordings from Bill O'Reilly.

Or the one who was convinced her employer was having her followed, and taunting her about life choices by "setting things up" at work, like demonstrating disapproval for her new boyfriend by assigning her to a new supervisor named Mr. Valentine...

Noting that the human brain is a remarkable, if sometimes overactive, pattern-seeking engine,

Richard J. Rutledge, Jr., North Carolina

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Fester Addams, Attorney and Counselor at Law????

James P. Moriarty, Iowa

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Keep in mind that there is a difference between creepy and weird. I have had some clients who could be definitely be classified as weird but were not creepy. I have also encountered some people who were creepy and reasonably felt they were potentially dangerous. Weird is something that can be tolerated depending on your personality. Creepy feelings should be respected.

Bert Krages, Oregon

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I would worry about someone suggesting meeting in out of the way places that require you to travel to them. Follow your instincts. Having a friend nearby in the Starbucks in CC is a good idea. And let the creepy potential client leave first, you hang around to be sure he's well away before you head out.

Miriam N. Jacobson, Pennsylvania

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He might have an elevator phobia, if you are in a high-rise.

Michael Blake

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If the money is green, its ok if he's weird. But it's not ok if he's scary.

More importantly, I have learned that as a professional, the client should be willing to come to my office during regular business hours. If the client wants me to come to his house or something, I say that I've learned over time that if I make those compromises, the clients wonder about me. I don't think you should meet him at Starbucks or anywhere else. You have an office - your clients should come to your office.

David A. Rubin, Missouri

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My practice is on hold right now, but I generally don't mind meeting people at a place of their preference. That said, there is a saying in my family:

"Sometimes, when you get a funny feeling about something, you should listen to it." Also, this thread is reminding me of Eddie Murphy Delirious when he was talking about the movie Poltergeist.

All the best,

Ari Hornick

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Some folks may think that you are not charging them if you meet in an informal setting.

If you meet in a cafe, just let them know the meeting will be billed like an in-office meeting.

And, the presence of third-parties could lead to an argument that that conversation was not privileged.

(Just my experience and paranoia)

Steven Sherman, California

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My consultation is actually free. If anything I would charge him for dragging me out of my office though :)

I also have a client who is afraid of elevators. I think she may be a survivor of something violent because she even gets nervous when I leave her alone to grab something. I accommodate her every time because I truly believe she's been through something.

Maybe this guy really is just afraid of the elevator... I don't know.

Miriam, I will definitely have a friend nearby when I meet with him. And I'll stay on South Street for a while so it will be obvious if I'm being followed.

Thanks for all of the advice!

Fareeda Brewington

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"...so I told him that there is a garage right next to my office if he's concerned about parking."

Creepy would have been if he had said, "Ok. Yeah, the parking garage sounds like a good place to meet."

But, I agree with the "Spidey Sense" comment. Read "The Gift of Fear".

[http://www.amazon.com/Other-Survival-Signals-Protect-Violence/dp/0440508835/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1458007265&sr=8-1&keywords=The+gift+of+fear](http://www.amazon.com/Other-Survival-Signals-Protect-Violence/dp/0440508835/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1458007265&sr=8-1&keywords=The+gift+of+fear)

Gave it to my oldest daughter when she entered high school. She seems a lot more aware of her surroundings than some of the kids I see filling up their cars at the gas station near the rent-by-the-week hotel that is, uhm, not very nice.

Kindly,

Jimmy Mac

(This message may have been dictated while driving and may contain misspellings, non-sequiturs, and/or inappropriate language.)

James M. McMullan, Alabama

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But if they suggested that you meet at Dreamland, you'd be there and might even reduce your fees.

Eric C. Davis, Alabama

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"But if they suggested that you meet at Dreamland, you'd be there and might even reduce your fees"

Weee!!!!!!, how creepy could they be with good taste like that?

<https://www.dreamlandbbq.com/>

Kindly,

Jimmy Mac

(This message may have been dictated while driving and may contain misspellings, non-sequiturs, and/or inappropriate language.)

James M. McMullan

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Creepiest pcs are the ones who say they are shopping around and wants to take advantage of your free consultation.

Hieu Vu, California

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