

Spacey Case Points To Cos.' Need To Preserve Devices, Data

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In the seminal film *The Usual Suspects*, a small-time con artist played by actor Kevin Spacey explains that, “the greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist.” Similar existential questions arose earlier this year in a criminal proceeding against Spacey in Massachusetts Superior Court. In a surprising turn of events, the Commonwealth abandoned sexual assault charges against the celebrity actor after the alleged victim’s mobile phone vanished. Without that evidence or authenticated text messages from the alleged victim, both the criminal case and a related civil lawsuit collapsed like a house of cards.

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