

REGISTER



COURSE LENGTH

2 day seminar

CA P.O.S.T. PLAN N/A

CERTIFICATION #

1126-31240

INSTRUCTORS

[Mike Gaynor](#)

UPCOMING COURSES

MAY 8 - 9, 2023

PLACERVILLE, CA

SEP 19 - 20, 2023

VACAVILLE, CA

OCT 30 - 31, 2023

TRACY, CA

OVERVIEW

The Death Investigation academy course will train police officers in the initial response and investigation in a death investigation. In our 16-hour course the student will learn how to identify various injuries, crime scene control and examination, manner and cause of death

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[Legal Issues Related to Death Investigation](#)

[Basic Death Investigation Techniques](#)

[Witness and Interview](#)

[Resources](#)

[FAQ](#)

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REGISTER [Accol/Case Study](#)

Major Crime Scene Management

Officer Involved Shootings/In-Custody Deaths

Evidence Recognition/Photography/Documentation

Witness Interviews

Case Studies in Death

COURSE OUTLINE

DAY ONE

Goals

Legal Issues Related to Death Investigation

Understanding the Criminal Justice System

Search and Seizure

Consent to search forms

Consent for release of medical records

Statements

Understanding the concepts surrounding what constitutes a voluntary statement

Circumstances under which a Miranda warning should be given

The nature of a spontaneous statement

Case Law

Various court decisions used to illustrate the above points as they relate to death investigations

Basic Death Investigation

Natural vs. Unnatural Death

Expected death vs. unexpected sudden death

Approach to a death scene

Inside/out observations

Outside/in observations

Mental note taking

Physical note taking

Essential Information

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- Essential information needed in case the missing person turns up deceased

Wound Recognition

Bruising

Naturally occurring bruising vs. suspicious bruises

Stages of bruising

Ligature

Recognizing a self devised/inflicted ligature mark from a mark inflicted from a second party

Incised Wounds

Basic understanding of instruments used and the appearance of the wounds produced from these instruments.

Gunshot wounds

Basic understanding of wounds left by a variety of firearms

Exit vs. entry wounds

Apparent Suicide

Overdose/Poisoning

Physical manifestations associated with overdose and poisoning suicides

Evidence items to be on the look out for associated to overdose and poisoning

Hangings

Evidence items to be on the look out for associated with hanging suicides

Examination of victim for evidence

Measurements to be recorded

Jumpers

Examination of primary and secondary suicide scene for evidence

Examination of victim for evidence

Gunshot Suicides

Examination of the scene for evidence

Examination of immediate scene for evidence



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Understanding the difference between injuries caused by a fall vs. those caused by a second party

Traffic Fatalities

Accident scene security

Understanding when an accident turns into an “on purpose”

The importance of identifying onlookers. E. Drowning

Understanding what evidence to look for upon initial arrival

Obtaining water samples and from where to obtain them

Auto-erotic

Understanding what evidence to look for upon arrival

Interviews of family, friends, and associates

The student will also learn the critical components essential for first responding police officers to ensure proper scene integrity at cases involving child deaths, homicides, and major crime scenes:

DAY TWO

Goals

Child Death Protocol

Definition of “Child Death”

Understanding what constitutes a child death

SIDS – The evolution of understanding into possible causes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

Abuse Situations – Understanding what evidence to look for in possible abuse situations that may have lead to the death of a child

Requesting “Full Body X-Rays” at a hospital

Neglect Situations

Understanding what evidence to look for in possible neglect situations

Pediatric Records

Obtaining consent from parents for each facility/doctor that has seen the child

Child Care Facilities

Scene security at a child care facility

Cooperation of other involved agencies

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[The Art of a Complete Canvass](#)

[Documenting residence profiles](#)

[Documenting target area profile](#)

[The optimum vehicle canvass](#)

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Officer Involved Shooting/In-Custody Death

Peace Officer's Bill of Rights

Understanding primary issues upon initial arrival

Understanding attorney/client privilege as it relates to involved officer

Information to be elicited from initial officer upon arrival

Criminal vs. Administrative Investigation

Understanding the necessity for the separation of both investigations

Evidence Recognition/Photographing/Documentation

Defining Evidence

Understanding the difference between evidence and extraneous material

Types of Evidence

Understanding physical, testimonial, and circumstantial evidence

Photographing a Scene (Telling a story with your photographs)

Understanding the composition of long view, medium view, and close up

Digital vs. Film Photography – Understanding advantages and disadvantages associated to both

Documenting the Investigation (Painting a picture with your words)

Understanding words used to describe specifics as opposed to generalities

Witness Interviews

Separation

Understanding how to effectively elicit an uninfluenced statement

Monitoring

Understanding how to maintain control of witnesses

Recording

Understanding the importance of recording interviews

Psychological effect of overt vs. covert recording

Understanding officer demeanor and approach in a variety of death investigation situations

Case Studies of Death Investigation

People vs. Carrasco – The body of a homeless woman is discovered in an encampment

People vs. Jeshurin – A dependent adult is discovered deceased by her in-home caregiver

Question & Answer

Conclusion

SEMINAR SPEAKERS



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THIS WAS, BY FAR AND AWAY THE BEST TRAINING I HAVE RECEIVED IN 15 PLUS YEARS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT. THE INSTRUCTORS ARE EXPERIENCED, ENGAGING, ARTICULATE, AND VERY ENTERTAINING. I WILL BE RECOMMENDING THIS TRAINING TO MULTIPLE AGENCIES.

—MARK PAYNTER, OREGON DOC

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FIELD INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

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