Forensic Aspects of Death Investigation (5 Day Course)

May 20 - 24, 2019

Potter County Sheriff’s Office
13103 N.E. 29th St.
Amarillo, TX 79111

Hosted by the Potter County Sheriff’s Office

This is not the normal course on homicide investigations, instead it is a course about death investigations that goes beyond examining homicide scenes to include suicides, accidental, natural, and those deaths in which the manner cannot be established. Actions taken during the initial response and initial actions upon arrival at the scene often make the difference in whether or not a case is solved. Also important to the investigation is scene management, the three major elements in death investigations, key death scene investigation practices, the importance of documentation, and the crime scene's impact on case solvability factors.

Discussion includes interactions between the Coroner/Medical Examiner and law enforcement with emphasis on roles, responsibilities, and a teamwork approach leading to effective communication that is crucial to resolution of death investigations. An often-overlooked aspect of death investigations is proper photography of the scene with particular emphasis on documenting conditions, evidence, and in particular the victim and suspect. Not only are these photographs essential to good scene documentation, but they can be crucial to effective case presentation in court.

Recognizing and obtaining investigative clues/leads from early and late body tissue changes that occur after death, how they are influenced by environmental conditions, and their application to time since death determination can give critical information in the course of the investigation. Considerations when investigating deaths by suicide, asphyxia and child physical abuse are also discussed. This is a comprehensive course with instruction on the following subjects:

Course Instruction Topics:

- Initial Response
- 911 Calls
- Legal Considerations
- Working with the Media
- Crime Scene and Forensic Evidence/Examinations
- Establishing/Defining the Crime Scene
- Organized and Disorganized Offenders
- Secondary Crime Scenes
- Preliminary Investigation
- Canvass Interviews
Working with the ME
Autopsy
Cause of Death v. Manner of Death
Time of Death
Changes After Death
Death Notifications
Wound Recognition
Blunt Force, Gunshot and Sharpe Force Injuries
MOM (Motive, Opportunity, Means)
Victimology
Interviews and Interrogations
Admissions, Denials, Confessions and Alibis (Inconsistent Statements)
Polygraph
Suicide
Asphyxia Deaths
Accidental Death
Victim Precipitated Death
Autoerotic Misadventures
Personal Cause/Group Cause/Criminal/Political
Child Abuse Death/SUID
Sexual Homicide
Define/Categorize Homicides
Motive, Intent, Ability (MIA)
Risk Factors: Victimology
Developing an Investigative Plan
Subpoenas and Search Warrants
ViCAP
Criminal Investigative Analysis
Staged Crime Scenes
Offender Dichotomy
Investigative Failures
Working with Prosecutors

Tuition Cost

$550.00

Instructors

Arthur S. Chancellor, MCJA

Steve began his law enforcement career in 1973 when he enlisted in the US Army as a Military Policeman. He remained in the MPs until 1981 when he was accepted into the US Army CID. As a CID Special Agent, Steve worked felony crimes at various military posts across the US and overseas. He later commanded three different CID units and in 2001 retired as a Chief Warrant Officer Four as the Operations Officer for a CID Battalion where he was responsible for the supervision of five different CID units and covered an eleven-state area of responsibility. Once retired Steve was employed by the Mississippi State Crime Lab as a senior crime scene analyst and conducted the examination of violent crime scenes across the state. In 2004 Steve was transferred from the crime lab to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation (MBI) as the first Director of the MBI Cold Case unit, responsible for assisting
police agencies across the state working on unresolved homicides. While working at the Crime lab and MBI, Steve and Grant Graham developed several different training courses for the Mississippi State Police Academy covering topics that included basic and advanced crime scenes, death investigations, and adult sex crimes. Steve was also involved in the development and as an instructor of the Certified Investigator Program at the police academy. Steve has a Master’s Degree and undergrad degrees in Criminal Justice, is a Graduate of the FBI National Academy and has been a college adjunct instructor for Austin Peay State University, Clarksville TN, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS and Clayton State University, Morrow, Georgia. He is a fellow with the American Academy of Forensic Science, and a member of the IAI, and the North Carolina Homicide Association. Steve is also the co-author of the text, *Staged Crime Scenes: Investigating Suspect Misdirection of the Crime Scene*, the co-author of the text *Death Investigations: The Second Edition*, and the author of *Investigating Sexual Assault Cases*.

Grant D. Graham, MFS, CBPA, CSCSA

Grant worked for the US Air Force Security Police beginning in 1979 working in various assignments across the US and overseas encompassing investigative, supervisory and managerial positions, including traffic accident and criminal investigator, Security Police Operations Superintendent; culminating in an assignment with the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner as the Chief, Forensic Trace Materials Analysis Laboratory and was a member of the FBI's deployed Kosovo War Crimes Task Force. Grant retired in 2000 after serving 20 years in military law enforcement and was subsequently employed by the Mississippi Crime Laboratory as a Senior Crime Scene Analyst where he conducted crime scene investigations of violent crime scenes throughout the state and served as the Interim Laboratory Manager for the Biloxi Branch Laboratory. In 2005, Grant was transferred to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation where he continued to examine violent crime scenes. Grant was the basic and advanced crime scene investigation and forensic aspects of death investigation curriculum co-developer and instructor for the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy and the Mississippi Certified Investigator Program; Grant is a graduate of the program and was the president of his CIP class. He served as a member of the National Institute of Justice Technical Working Group for Mass Fatality Incidents: A Guide for Human Forensic Identification and serves as a member of the Fayetteville State University, Forensic Science Program Advisory Committee. He also co-developed with Steve Chancellor, and was the lead instructor for the University of Southern Mississippi International Forensic Science Academy. He has testified as an expert in bloodstain pattern analysis, shooting incident reconstruction and crime scene investigation. Grant has a Master of Forensic Sciences degree and is currently the Forensic Manager for the Fayetteville Police Department, NC Forensic Laboratory. He is a graduate of the ATF Basic and Advanced Post Blast Investigative Techniques Courses, is an International Association for Identification (IAI) Certified Bloodstain Pattern Analyst, an IAI Certified Senior Crime Scene Analyst and is the Secretary of the IAI Bloodstain Pattern Analyst Certification Board. Grant is also the co-author of the text, *Staged Crime Scenes: Investigating Suspect Misdirection of the Crime Scene*.

**Target Audience**

This course is designed for detectives, crime scene investigators and other law enforcement and forensic professionals involved in death investigations.

**Course Contact Information**
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Register At:

https://www.secondlooktraining.com/training-schedule