

Continuing Education and Training: Medicolegal Death Investigations



RTI International offers Web-based training courses* that target advanced education needs for medicolegal death investigators, coroners, and medical examiners, as well as ancillary professionals such as criminal justice practitioners. This training will contribute to successful medicolegal death investigations, enhance efficiency in processing forensic evidence in death investigations, and help reduce courtroom evidentiary challenges.

Medicolegal Death Investigation Courses Sudden, Unexplained Infant Death Investigation

- **Overview and “Top 25” Critical Points to Consider**— This course provides an overview of sudden, unexplained infant death (SUID), including how it differs from sudden infant death syndrome. It covers the investigation of SUID cases and how to certify these deaths, as well as the “Top 25” points critical to a SUID investigation. The course is approximately 60 minutes.
- **Infant Growth and Development**—This course provides an overview of infant growth and development and how they relate to SUID investigations. The first part reviews normal and abnormal infant growth, and the second part covers the steps and tools used to monitor infant growth. The last part addresses infant developmental milestones. The course is approximately 60 minutes.
- **Death Scene Re-creation**—This course reviews the goals of the death scene investigator, including how to conduct a thorough death scene re-creation and how to explain the re-creation process to the family member or caregiver. The course is approximately 90 minutes. (Accepted toward CME, MOC-SAM, ABMDI continuing education.)

Forensic Science Education Offerings

For more information on current and upcoming educational content, please visit our website or contact us directly.

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Developing a Missing Persons Protocol

This course is designed to provide law enforcement agencies with the information needed to develop protocols that will ensure consistent and effective investigations of missing person cases. The material is relevant to all law enforcement agencies, regardless of size, and covers free resources that can assist agencies in better responding to and investigating missing persons cases. The course is approximately 60 minutes. (Accepted toward ABMDI continuing education.)

* Most course offerings have been approved for Continuing Medical Education (CME), Continuing Nursing Education (CNE), Maintenance of Certification (MOC) in Forensic Pathology (self-assessment modules or “SAMs” credits), American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators, and/or ACCENT® accreditation programs. Specific details in each course description.

Cold Case Safety Net: Missing and Unidentified Persons

This course is designed for all agencies, regardless of size, that handle long-term missing and unidentified persons cases. It provides an efficient and effective four-step process to initially address all missing and unidentified person cold cases uniformly and to ensure that investigators maximize the use and benefits of database searching and outside resources. Once an initial cold case safety net response is completed, traditional cold case selection factors can be applied to prioritize cases for further investigative response. (Accepted toward ABMDI continuing education.)

Offender Profiling: Psychology Contributions to Behavioral Crime Scene Analysis

Offender profiling is a crime analysis technique to help investigators generate new leads and narrow the pool of suspects to identify the most likely offender. This course outlines the history of offender profiling and presents the latest scientific research on how specific patterns in an offender's behavior at a crime scene can be reliably used to identify offender characteristics. The course is approximately 60 minutes.

Forensic Anthropology: Mapping and Exhumation of Clandestine Burials

This course familiarizes investigators with the basic methods for archaeological excavation of single, clandestine graves. Note that this course is not intended to qualify individuals to excavate a clandestine grave. The course is approximately 60 minutes.

Investigative Strategies: Missing and Unidentified Persons Cases

This course covers a range of investigative strategies and considerations for handling unidentified and missing persons cases. It is designed primarily for law enforcement, medical examiners, and coroners. However, it can also help family members of missing persons, victim advocates, and the general public gain a deeper understanding of the tools used in these investigations and the proper handling of sensitive information (e.g., the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System [NamUs]). Course material covers the three most common types of biometric data—dental

records, fingerprint records, and DNA—used to proactively compare missing and unidentified persons and addresses the misconceptions that prevent these forensic resources from being fully utilized. While this course does not cover every aspect of an unidentified or missing persons investigation, it suggests ways to make better use of the available forensic services and investigative tools.

Upcoming Web-based Course Topics for 2011—Delivered Live and On Demand

- Recreational Inhalation and Asphyxia in Death Investigations
- Death Investigation in the Elderly
- Prescription Drug Overdose in Death Investigations
- Expert Witness Testimony in Medicolegal Death Investigations
- Investigating Sudden Deaths: Deaths that Mimic Different Causes
- New Coroner's Roles and Responsibilities

These courses are offered by RTI International in partnership with University of North Texas Center for Human Identification (2007-DN-CX-K234, 2009-DN-BX-K184) and the National Association of Medical Examiners (2007-DN-BX-K208, 2009-DN-BX-K115) awarded by the National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice.

The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this training are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position nor policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

More Information

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RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

