

Basic Training Module Specifications

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| <u>Functional Area:</u> | I. Investigation                       |
| <u>Subject Area:</u>    | D. Investigation                       |
| <u>Module Title:</u>    | 3. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF DEATHS |
| <u>Hours:</u>           | Not less than 2 hours                  |

Module Objectives:

I.D.3.1. Examine Dead Body for Evidence of Unnatural Death.

- a. Notifies medical examiner of death.
- b. Investigate death scene for evidence of unnatural death before searching the body by considering length of time the person has been dead, visual signs of violence, appearance of the body, etc.
- c. Examines dead body for wounds and injuries by inspecting the body visually and recording any unusual observations.
- d. Protects death scene.

I.D.3.2. Search Dead Bodies for Identification When Death is Determined to be Natural.

- a. Searches the body to locate identification (e.g., checks pockets, checks purse), or identifying marks (e.g., scars, tattoos, amputations, medic-alert tags), if the death was natural.
- b. Inventories valuables obtained in search.
- c. Secures personal property obtained from a dead body.

I.D.3.3. Establish the Identity of Deceased Persons.

Instructor Notes

The role of law enforcement is to establish preliminary identity. This information will assist the medical examiner with the official verification of the deceased.

- a. Checks for immediate identification on the body.
- b. Contacts witnesses for questioning or for viewing the body.

I.D.3.3. Establish the Identity of Deceased Persons (continued).

- c. Checks official records (e.g., fingerprints, dental records, missing person records).

I.D.3.4. Review with Medical Examiner Circumstances Relating to a Death.

- a. Briefs the medical examiner concerning the circumstances surrounding the death.
- b. Discusses physical evidence (e.g., how many gunshots, angle of weapon entry, amount of drugs taken, etc.) with medical examiner to obtain information aiding in the investigation of the death.
- c. Records pertinent information determined by the medical examiner concerning the circumstances of death (e.g., time of death, whether body was moved).
- d. Reviews medical examiner reports for information that might aid in the investigation of the death.

Instructor Notes-

When possible, officers should try to obtain medical history such as prescribed medications, and/or drug and alcohol usage.

**Module History**

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| Revised  | 09/21 |
| Reviewed | 11/23 |