

Death Investigation and Injury Causation for the Professional Investigator

When should an expert consultation be considered?

When the incident, criminal offense, or civil wrong involves a Death or Serious Bodily Injury that is:

- Violent, Traumatic or Abuse
- Sudden or Unexpected
- Unattended or No Medical History
- Incarcerated, Treating or Care Facility

These are serious incidents that may result in serious criminal charges or cause of action in civil or administrative litigation.



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CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT INFORMATION

This course is may qualify for required continuing education units. We cannot guarantee acceptance.

If you are using this course for continuing education purposes, we suggest you obtain pre-approval.

To submit for continuing education credit, you will be required to complete the questions at the end of this course and submit them to our agency for grading. Upon a passing grade of 70% or better, we will issue a certificate of completion with a passing grade.

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This *Death Investigation for Private Investigators* course is a basic introduction into the concepts of the official investigation of death, such as by a coroner or medical examiner office, and the role that the private investigator may play in an equivocal death investigation. As might be expected, there are similar roles, overlapping roles and, of course different roles and responsibilities.

This course is based upon a combined legal investigative experience of over 30 years and a combined official death investigation experience of over seven years at a busy and unique coroner/medical examiner's office. At that office the candidate investigator had to first complete a thorough 6-9 month training academy. If accepted, an on-the-job volunteer internship position may be offered, followed by a part-time paid position. Both Dean and Karen completed each of these modules (Dean from 2002 to 2008 and Karen from 2004 to 2006). In 2004 Dean was offered a full-time position. The duties of all trainees and investigators included being on call for 24 hours shifts, multiple shifts per week, responding to scenes and completing thorough and independent investigations, transporting the body and preparing for autopsy. In addition, the most dreaded and responsible component of the process included the determination, location and notification of the decedent's next-of-kin. Deaths investigated included fetuses to the elderly, natural deaths to homicides and home deaths to multi-vehicle collisions.

This course is designed to provide the investigator currently working in, or interested in working in, the death and personal injury investigation fields the knowledge and insight to informatively

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and intelligently conduct a criminal defense or civil investigation in which serious bodily injury or death is the subject matter of the litigation.

Thank You, Dean and Karen



Dean A. Beers, CLI, CCDI* and Karen S. Beers, BSW, CCDI

Colorado Licensed Private Investigators Nos. PI-503 and PI-502

**Board Certified Legal Investigator / Expert*

Board Certified Criminal Defense Investigators

Certified Death Investigators / former Deputy Coroners

Associates in Forensic Investigations, LLC

www.DeathCaseReview.com ~ beersda@DeathCaseReview.com

(970) 480-7793 Office (Dean x1 / Karen x2) and (970) 480-7794 Fax

'Quaero Indicium' - To Find The Evidence

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Death Investigation for the Private Investigator

Written by

Dean A. Beers, CLI, CCDI and Karen S. Beers, BSW, CCDI

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Table of Contents

I	An Overview of Death Investigation	1
II	What is Death	2
	Cause of Death	
	Manner of Death	
III	What is the Role of the Private Investigator in Equivocal Death Investigations?	5
IV	The Investigative Protocol	7
	Prepare	
	Inquire	
	Analyze	
	Document	
	Report	
V	What is Death Investigation	10
VI	The Coroner System vs. Medical Examiner System	10
VII	The Coroner System (or Medical Examiner) and Designated Agents (Deputies)	11

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VIII	Are All Deaths Autopsied or Coroner Cases, and What Determines an Autopsy?	14
IX	If it is Not a Coroner’s Case and /or Autopsied – Should it Still be Independently Reviewed?	17
X	What are the Roles in Official Death Investigation	18
XI	What are the Duties and Responsibilities of the Coroner or Medical Examiner in the Official Death Investigation	20
	Scene	
	Evidence	
	Decedent Investigation	
	Other Investigative Considerations	
	Time of Death	
XII	Involved Persons and Witnesses	32
XIII	Interaction with Official Agencies	35
XIV	Next-of-Kin, Familial and Inter/Intra –Personal Relationships	37
XV	History of the Decedent	37
	Medical History	
	Social History	
XVI	Forensic Autopsy	41
	Decedent Description and Clothing	
	Evidence of Medical Intervention	
	Medical History and Records	
	Gross Autopsy Findings – External Examination	
	Gross Autopsy Findings – Internal Examination	
	Microscopy and Histopathology	
	Toxicology	
	Mechanism of Death and Injury Causation	
	Examples of Common Death Investigations – gunshot wounds, motor vehicle incidents, pedestrian incidents, workplace incidents, wrongful death, negligence and personal injury, drug and alcohol overdoses, special circumstances	
XVII	Death Certificates	55
XVIII	Death Investigation and Personal Injury Causation	56
	Wound Significance	

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Wound Interpretation	
XIX Autopsy Findings, Scene and Circumstances	60
XX What is the Role of the Private Sector Death Investigator	61
Forensic and Other Experts	
Report of Investigative Findings	
A Examples of Cause of Death Statements	65
B Incident Scene Investigation Protocol	69
C HIPAA – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act	71
D HIPAA Compliant Records Release	72
E Documents to Request	74
F Definitions Common to Death Investigation	76
G Definitions Common to Autopsies and Reports	80
H Common Acronyms to Death Investigation	82
I Full Body, Male, Anterior and Posterior Views (diagram)	83
J Signs of Common Surgical Intervention (diagram)	84
K Signs of Common Medical Interventions (diagram)	85

BONUS SECTION

-- *Death Investigation for Private Investigators – Quick Reference*

(contains demonstrative graphic content)

-- *Reviewing and Comprehending Autopsy Reports*

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DEAN A. BEERS, CLI, CCDI



Colorado PI License No. PI-503

Dean founded the agency in October of 1987. A longstanding career, and experience, that is rare in the industry. He is the only Board Certified Legal Investigator (CLI) in Northern Colorado, Certified Criminal Defense Investigator (CCDI), and is also certified in Medicolegal Death Investigation specializing in Expert Consultations and Legal Investigations nationwide in Personal Injury, Negligence & Death in Civil, Criminal and Probate litigation. In addition to general legal investigations, his expertise is in death and injury causation.

As a death investigator for two medical examiner's offices, he was the primary investigator in all manners of deaths and incidents. From 2003-2008 he investigated over 150 scenes, assisted with approximately 400 autopsies, and investigated nearly 600 additional non-autopsied cases. This does not include over 1,100 additional cases that were not taken for jurisdiction, while in training, or in which Dean was a co-investigator (homicides and child deaths frequently required multiple investigators).

Dean's background includes over 5,000 hours of experience specific to death investigation and related injuries, negligence, and causation. His education and training from 2002-2008 includes over 600 hours in the Law Enforcement Academy and 1200 hours of general and forensic investigative specific training in multiple disciplines.

Dean is a member, including board and committee member, of several associations, including Professional Private Investigators Association of Colorado, National Association of Legal Investigators, National Council of Investigation & Security Services, Criminal Defense Investigation Training Council, World Association of Detectives, and others.



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KAREN S. BEERS, BSW, CCDI



Colorado PI License No. PI-502

Karen joined the agency in 1996. In 1998 she earned her Associates in Science degree and in 2003 she earned her Bachelor's in Social Work from Colorado State University (Magna Cum Laude). She is also a Certified Criminal Defense Investigator (CCDI) and certified in Medicolegal Death Investigations. Her background, education and experience with victim advocacy and counseling are valuable assets in working with families and victims of traumatic events.

As a death investigator Karen was involved in the investigations of all manners of deaths and incidents, training under three Forensic Pathologists. From 2004-2006 she investigated and assisted with numerous death cases and scenes, and assisted with forensic autopsies.

Following graduation from Colorado State University was an extensive internship at a youth counseling and rehabilitation facility. She is also a member of the Criminal Defense Investigations Training Council. Karen has been professionally published multiple times and with Dean she co-developed 'Death Investigation for Private Investigators', an online continuing education course.

Karen is a member of the Criminal Defense Investigation Training Council and the National Defender Investigator Association. She is also a death investigation subject matter expert.



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