General Information:
Title: Medicolegal Death Investigator
Type: Objective Type (paper and pencil)
Items: 240
Time: 4 hours

AREAS COVERED: % OF TEST # OF ITEMS
A. Interacting with Federal, State and Local Agencies 3% 10
B. Communicating 10% 25
C. Interacting with Families 8% 20
D. Investigating Techniques 33% 70
E. Identifying and Preserving Evidence 10% 25
F. Maintaining Ethical and Legal Responsibilities 9% 20
G. Demonstrating Scientific Knowledge 25% 60
H. Coping with Job Related Stress 2% 10

A. INTERACTING WITH FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES

A1. Determine jurisdictional responsibility
   Includes the proper methods used to determine medical examiner/coroner jurisdiction.

A2. Determine the scope of agency responsibility
   Includes the proper methods used to determine deaths reportable to the medical examiner/coroner office.

A3. Report critical data
   Includes proper methods of defining critical data and determining how data is to be reported.

A4. Share critical data
   Includes proper methods of releasing critical data to outside agencies including forms used.

A5. Identify support agencies
   Includes deaths reportable to outside agencies, outside agencies that support the medical examiner/coroner office, as well as decedent’s families.

A6. Collect essential agency data
   Includes methods used to define essential data, distribution report forms, and other agency interactions.

A7. Arrange for organ and tissue procurement
   Includes organ procurement agencies, forms, recovery timing, organ and tissue types typically used in transplant and research.

A8. Certify the death (completing the death certificates)
   Includes the death certificate format, release timing, and proper completion techniques.
B. COMMUNICATING

B9. Notify next of kin
Includes methods used to make proper notification, identification of legal next-of-kin, and release of information.

B10. Maintain confidentiality
Includes methods used to maintain confidentiality within an office and external to office.

B11. Interact with law enforcement personnel
Includes agency cooperation practices, statutory responsibility, and objectivity between agencies involved in the investigation.

B12. Interact with funeral directors
Includes strategies used to interact with funeral directors, as well as roles and responsibilities for families, investigator and funeral home directors.

B13. Write narrative reports
Includes content of the narrative investigative report, its structure and use in the overall investigation of a death.

B14. Complete report forms
Includes the proper use of report forms within the medical examiner/coroner office as well as the use of report forms as shared documents.

B15. Use effective interviewing skills (witnesses)
Includes techniques and strategies used to interview witnesses involved in the death investigation, including family, friends and associates.

B16. Communicate with the pathologist
Includes basic forensic medical terminology and the relationships that exist between the medical examiner/coroners investigators and the forensic pathologist who performs the autopsy.

B17. Maintain relations with the media
Includes strategies and techniques used to work with the media regarding public information release and accountability.

B18. Notify/Communicate with treating physician
Includes general medical terminology typically used by emergency room physicians as well as family practice physicians. Also included, the relationship that exists between the physician who last treated the decedent and the investigation.

B19. Utilize telephone etiquette
Includes proper use of the telephone within the professional medical examiner/coroner office, strategies used in gathering information over the phone, and methods used to communicate with individuals over the phone.

C. INTERACTING WITH FAMILIES

C20. Obtain information
Includes methods used to gather investigative information from family members during the investigation (a time of stress).

C21. Explain procedures to families
Includes strategies used to assist families to understanding medical examiner/coroner procedures related to the autopsy and the investigative process.

C22. Respect family requests
Includes various types of religious objections to the autopsy and strategies used to
overcome those objections (as necessary).

C23. Report findings to the family
   Includes methods of interaction with family members during the release of
   medical examiner/coroner findings, autopsy results and appropriate timetables for
   release of additional information.

C24. Prepare family for identification viewing
   Includes strategies used by investigators to inform families as to the condition of
   the decedent and the possible results linked to viewing the body.

C25. Respond to family’s reactions
   Includes strategies used by investigators to support family members during and
   after the identification viewing.

C26. Perform an investigative follow-up interview
   Includes methods of conducting the follow-up interview with family members,
   friends and associates of the decedent.

D. INVESTIGATING DEATHS

D27. Determine scene safety (public health)
   Includes methods used to determine scene safety prior to entry.

D28. Secure the scene
   Includes methods used to interact with support agencies in the establishment of
   the scene.

D29. Validate death
   Includes methods used to assure death has been established and documented.

D30. Identify human remains
   Includes knowledge of basic anthropology.

D31. Photograph the scene and the body
   Includes proper uses of photography, of both scene and body. Also includes
   basic knowledge of photographic equipment and usage.

D32. Conduct the physical examination
   Includes proper methods of conducting the on-scene physical examination of body

D33. Document the death scene
   Includes systematic methods of documenting the death scene for later use by
   investigative staff and outside agency personnel.

D34. Write descriptive information
   Includes strategies used to write investigative reports that describe the scene,
   including the environment and the body.

D35. Draw specimens
   Includes standard medical protocol and methods used to draw fluids (blood,
   vitreous, and urine) from the decedent for analysis by lab personnel.

D36. Identify forensic instrumentation
   Includes personal protective equipment, forensic equipment, forms, and scene
   processing aids.

D37. Recognize manners of death
   Includes the five typically recognized manners of death and standard methods of
   determining each.

D38. Investigate multiple fatalities
   Includes general knowledge of mass disaster protocol.
E. IDENTIFYING AND PRESERVING EVIDENCE

E39. Distinguish between personal property and evidence
Includes documentation procedures used to maintain evidence and personal
property and the distinguishing factors between each.

E40. Ensure chain of custody
Includes need for chain of custody, methods of maintaining chain, and rationale
for maintaining chain of custody

E41. Facilitate analysis of evidence
Includes proper evidence collection techniques for various of evidence.

F. MAINTAINING ETHICAL AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

F42. Maintain the dignity of the deceased
Includes methods used by investigators to maintain the dignity of the deceased at
the scene and throughout the investigation.

F43. Dispose of unclaimed/unidentified remains
Includes common methods and requirements for disposing of unclaimed and/or
unidentified remains.

F44. Provide testimony
Includes strategy used by investigators, medical examiner/coroner offices when
served with a subpoena.

F45. Identify potential conflicts of interest
Includes relationships between medical examiner/coroner offices with such
outside service providers are: funeral homes, ambulance services, cleaning
companies, etc.

F46. Safeguard personal property against theft
Includes methods used to protect decedent’s property, until release.

F47. Project a positive/professional image
Includes important factors involved in the perception of the medical examiner/
coroner office by the community and support agencies.

G. DEMONSTRATING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

G48. Demonstrate knowledge of forensic pathology
Includes basic forensic medical terminology, traumatic injuries, traumatic
artifacts, therapeutic interventions, antemortem injuries on the body, postmortem
artifacts on the body, time of death establishment. Decomposition, signs of death,
systematic examination of external body, body systems, medical services, and
various types of death.

G49. Demonstrate knowledge of forensic science
Includes basic forensic science terminology, the role of outside forensic experts in
the medicolegal death investigation, drug names and terminology (Physician’s
Desk Reference), legal laboratory tests, gunshot wounds, and firearms
documentation.

G50. Demonstrate medical knowledge
Includes basic medical terminology, universal precautions, medical anatomy,
internal anatomy, basic physiology, use of medial charts and reports, identification
of human disease, common medications, hospital bureaucracy.
H. COPING WITH JOB-RELATED STRESS

H51. Identify the warning signs of stress
    Includes common warning signs of stress, mood swings, behavior changes, and effects on job and domestic life.

H52. Identify appropriate coping mechanism (for stress)
    Includes lifestyle changing, professional assist programs, and inappropriate methods of coping with stress.