Homicide: The Investigative Challenge

Natural Death • Undetermined Death • Accidental Death
• Suicide • Homicide • Continued Investigation

Instructor:
David W. Rivers, Sgt. (Retired)
Metro-Dade Police Department
Miami, Florida

David Rivers retired as a Detective Sergeant in the Homicide Bureau of the Metro-Dade Police Department after over 27 years of service. He was assigned to the Homicide Bureau for 20 of those 27 plus years. As a lead investigator and supervisor he conducted and assisted in the conducting of several hundred investigations. These include homicides, suicides, accidental and other death investigations. In 1988 David was assigned as the Supervisor of the "Cold Case Squad" which was responsible for the continuing investigation of information received on over 1,800 open homicides dating back to 1951. Additionally, he has consulted on cases in the United States, Canada, Holland and the United Kingdom. He has a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Nova Southern University and a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Florida International University.

David is a charter member and past member of the Board of Director’s of the International Homicide Investigator’s Association. In 2012 he received an Excellence and Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Homicide Investigator’s Association for Death Investigation and Training. Additionally, he is a member of several state homicide investigators associations. He is a current member of International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association (I.L.E.E.T.A.), International Police Association (I.P.A.), Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (A.C.J.S.) and the Police Section of A.C.J.S.; in April of 2010 he was certified as a Force Science Analyst by the Force Science Institute Limited.

He is currently the President of Voice & Ink Enterprises, Inc., a Florida Corporation that specializes in law enforcement training and expert witness testimony. He is a national instructor for the Public Agency Training Council a majority of the time and has instructed law enforcement officers in 46 states and three foreign countries. He specializes in Homicide Investigation and Officer Involved Shootings.

June 3, 4 & 5, 2014
Rio Rancho, New Mexico
(Albuquerque, New Mexico)

Register Online At: www.patc.com
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Course Objectives

This two and a half day training module will provide the attendee with the skills and competency to conduct complete and thorough homicide investigations with prosecutorial merit. Additionally, the attendee will be provided with the skills to recognize and handle other types of death investigations, bringing them to a successful conclusion.

A case will be examined at the beginning of the class through discussion, questions, and answers as well as an evaluation of evidence discovered by student observations. After the discussion the students will evaluate whether the classification of the case should be accidental death, suicide, or homicide.

The class will cover the three basic steps in all homicide investigations: crime scene, follow-up, and case & courtroom presentation.

Crime Scene:

This block will cover the most recent and important relevant court decisions regarding search and seizure as well as some basic techniques and definitions.

Follow-up:

The follow-up phase can also be called the detecting phase. Some of the topics discussed will be interviews, area canvasses, technology, Miranda and other court decisions, as well as some ethnic and cultural issues.

Case & Courtroom Presentation:

Attendees will examine some suggestions from defense attorneys, judges, and prosecutors on how to be a better witness, and how to be better prepared for court.

A brief history of the Cold Case Squad, their makeup, and how they opened and managed unresolved cases. Some unresolved cases will be reviewed.

Other types of death investigations will be covered: autoerotic deaths, non-vehicular accidental deaths, suicides, and unattended natural deaths.

Autoerotic Deaths:

These types of deaths are some of the most unique and challenging cases an officer will face.

Non-vehicular Accidental Deaths:

These types of cases have a propensity to end up in civil court and require in-depth and thorough investigation.

Suicides:

These types of investigations have a multitude of problems that face the investigator. The analysis of these problems will provide the investigator with the skills and tools necessary to objectively examine these cases.

Unattended Natural Deaths:

When a person is apparent good health dies or even if the individual has been ill, the family wants answers.

Deadly force and the multitude of subjects in dealing with its application by officers as well as the deaths of officers in the line of duty will be discussed. Attendees will be provided with skills that are critical to the understanding of the dynamics and problems that occur during these types of cases.

Seminar Agenda

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Tuesday, June 3, 2014
8:00 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Registration
8:30 a.m.—10:00 a.m. Introduction
Class Exercise– Homicide Case
Accidental Death
Homicide
Suicide
Natural
10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Three (3) Basic Steps of a Homicide Investigation
Court Decisions, Search & Seizure
Relative to Homicide Investigations
Lunch (On Your Own)
Second Phase of a Homicide Investigation
Detecting Phase “Follow Up”
Interviews
Area Canvass
Miranda
Ethnic & Cultural Issues
Third Phase
Case & Court Room Presentation
Cold Case Homicides
12 Steps to Re-opening & Managing
Unresolved Cases
Dealing With the Media
Next of Kin Notification
Lunch (On Your Own)

Wednesday, June 4, 2014
8:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Cold Case Homicides
(With Breaks)
12:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.
Unique Death Investigations
(With Breaks)
Autoerotic Deaths
Non-vehicular
Accidental Deaths
Suicides
Unattended Natural Deaths

Thursday, June 5, 2014
8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Deaths Involving Use of Force
(With Breaks)
Investigating Officers Deaths
12:00 p.m.
Certificate Presentation

Names of Attendees

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 

Agency

Invoice To Attn:

(Must Be Completed)

Address

City State Zip

Email

Phone

Fax