



General Section – 2003

D18 A Mass Fatality Identification Guide for Medical Examiners and Coroners

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The goals of this presentation are to discuss a new guide written by the Mass Fatality Incident Technical Working Group (MFITWG) of the National Center for Forensic Sciences (NCFS) and underwritten by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

The NCFS MFITWG first met in June of 2001 to prepare a guide tentatively titled, "Mass Fatality Incidents: A Guide for Human Forensic Identification." The intended audience was the smaller local medical examiner and coroner offices who had neither the physical plant nor financial resources to support the identification of a large number of human remains.

The members of the group included nationally recognized leaders in their fields with first-hand experience in the mass fatality arena. The MFITWG was divided into committees covering 1) Administration and operations, 2) Medical Examiner/Coroner, 3) Physical Anthropology, 4) DNA, 5) Fingerprints, and 6) Odontology.

The group met either in person or by conference calls over the past year to brainstorm ideas, formulate a rough draft, ask the forensic community for peer review, and finally complete a final consensus document for publication.

An overview of the completed document will be presented to the forensic community to familiarize them with its content.

The date of publication and how to obtain the document will be discussed. Other ongoing work of the NCFS will also be presented.

Guide, Mass Fatality, Identification