



Pathology Biology Section – 2007

G7 Forensic Science “Case Derived” Templates Formulated With Relational Database Software

Gilbert E. Corrigan, MD, PhD, East Baton Rouge Coroner's Office, 4030 T.B. Hearndon Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70807; and Sarah P. Corrigan, MS, Jefferson Parish Forensic Laboratory, Jefferson Parish Government, Metairie, LA 70001*

This presentation demonstrates the forensic science utility of commercial open-marketed relational databases in template and table production, report and forms formulations, and query fashioning.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating the valuable and available merits of relational database use in the forensic sciences as a readily learned, available, and important tool in the armamentarium of the forensic scientist.

Using Microsoft Access relational database software, a series of templates are presented covering forensic science topics, especially those arising in forensic pathology and crime laboratory environment.

Templates are important graphic aids in data entry and case analysis; in relational databases they are formulated by critically selecting fields for data tables. Precise and accurate derivations of essential factors pertaining to the selected data item are necessary; however, database structures are readily edited, improve with review, making templates dynamic and progressive. The ease of template production is emphasized.

Other dimensions of relational database software are demonstrated and include the production of relational tables, the use of queries, and the production of forms and reports. Relational database application mastery is presented as a legitimate forensic science skill.

Evaluations of the available relational databases on the basis of ease of use, availability of support services and educational courses, certifications, personal application, and cost are presented. A summative reference is made available.

Relational Database, Templates, Computer Software