



Workshop - 2016

W10 Practical Homicide Investigation®: An Evaluation of Homicides Involving Child Victims, Child Offenders, and Equivocal Death Investigations

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After attending this presentation, attendees will better understand the unique aspects of child homicides and the dynamics involved in cases in which children are offenders. In addition, the presenters will discuss equivocal deaths and aquatic death investigations as well as the application of professional homicide investigation and medicolegal analysis to these events.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing and familiarizing forensic scientists and investigators with the art and science involved in the professional investigation and medicolegal analysis in homicide investigations specifically as they relate to child homicides and equivocal death inquiries.

The investigation, medicolegal evaluation, and prosecution of child abuse-related fatalities are different from other types of homicides. The death scenes are often equivocal and open to different interpretations as to the cause and manner of death, sometimes due to manipulation of the scene by the offender. Likewise, the autopsy findings may be non-diagnostic and even absent, the so-called “negative autopsy.” Such deaths may present as homicides, suicides, accidents, or natural deaths and may be altered by the offender to misdirect the investigation through staging of the scene and/or posing or mutilation of the body. They are open to interpretation pending further information of the facts, the victimology, and the circumstances of the event.

This workshop will focus on the investigative applications and best practice model of Practical Homicide Investigation® and the medicolegal evaluation of specific equivocal cases as well as the application of forensic pathology to the investigative process to accurately determine the cause and manner of death through a multidisciplinary medicolegal investigation as they relate to the investigation of equivocal deaths and offender-manipulated homicide scenes. The presentation will also feature cases that involve juveniles who commit murder with a level of sophistication and planning well beyond the age of the offender as well as aquatic death investigations involving children and adults.

Upon completion of this workshop, attendees will be familiar with the importance of crime scene integrity, the management of the homicide investigations, and the processing of the homicide crime scene as well as the application of the medicolegal investigation specifically as it relates to injury causation and the cause and manner of death.

Forensic Science, Equivocal Death, Aquatic Death