



Northwest Illinois Criminal Justice Commission

Doug Coppotelli, Regional Director
2308 E. Lincolnway Suite E, Sterling IL 61081
Phone: 815-288-6695- Fax: 815-288-6787- www.mtu1.com

Mobile Team Unit #1 is funded in partnership with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board

Inside the Tape: Suicide & the Equivocal Death Scene, SIDS and the Infant Death Scene

DATE: March 28, 2024

Registration Ends: February 24, 2024

TIME: 8:00 AM—4:00 PM 8 Hours

LOCATION: Dixon Police Department, 220 S. Hennepin, Dixon IL 61021

INSTRUCTOR: Inv. David Newman (retired), Norfolk, VA Police Dept.

COURSE CONTENT: This course is unique to our other one-day program in that the focus is divided into two topics throughout the day. The morning session will focus on suicides and the equivocal death investigation and the afternoon session will focus on the infant death scene and SIDS death. The course objectives are to illustrate through case review the key indicators at equivocal scenes which aid in defining the manner of death in cases where it is open to interpretation. Victimology will be the focus in equivocal death of adults as well as scene conditions and cause of death that are commonly associated with suicide as opposed to accidental death and homicide. The most commonly staged crime scenes are those where the suspects attempt to make the scene appear to be a suicide or an accidental scenario. Recognition of wound and injury patterns are also covered in detail to also include and equivocal diagnosis cutting chart used in equivocal cases where a sharp force weapon was the mechanism of death. The afternoon session will focus on the infant death scene and the indicators and conditions focused on in cases of abuse and neglect. Many challenges are confronted by both patrol officers and investigators at the scenes of infant deaths. Many innocent looking scenes result in being ruled homicides, while equivocal death as well applies to almost every infant death scene. It has long been a well-known fact in medical science that neonates and infants do not die absent reason or cause. Therefore, the death of any child should be regarded as sudden and unexpected and the protocol and responsibilities that apply to adult death scenes are applied to those of infants.

TOPICS COVERED:

TOPICS ARE TO INCLUDE:

- *WHAT IS EQUIVOCAL DEATH AND THE OBJECTIVE MINDSET
- *INITIAL SCENE ASSESSMENT DEFINED BY SOP AND PROTOCOL
- *DEFINE AND DISCUSS MANNER OF DEATH IN EACH CATEGORY ILLUSTRATING THE FACTORS AND INDICATORS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH
 - *THE ROLE VICTIMOLOGY PLAYS IN EQUIVOCAL DEATH
 - *WOUND AND INJURY INTERPRETATION
 - *THE SUICIDE SCENE
- *EQUIVOCAL DEATH SCENE CHECKLIST SHEET
 - *THE INFANT HOMICIDE SCENE AND SIDS
- *DEFINE AND ILLUSTRATE CASES OF NEONATICIDE/INFANTICIDE AND FILICIDE
 - *REVIEW THE FACTORS THAT DEFINE SIDS
 - *INFANT DEATH CHECKLIST SHEET
- *DEFINE AND ILLUSTRATE CASES OF NEGLECT AND ABUSE RESULTING FROM PHYSICAL ACTS OR CASES OF OMMISSION
 - *ANGRY IMPULSIVE HOMICIDE CASES
- *DOMESTIC HOMICIDE SCENES INVOLVING INFANTS
- *ANALYZING 911 PHONE CALLS REGARDING SUICIDE SCENES, EQUIVOCAL DEATHS AND THE INFANT DEATH SCENE



Partial funding provided by Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board and MTU#1's request for certification of this course has been approved by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

REGISTRATION:

All registrations are received on the [MTU#1 website](#). Find Registration instructions [here](#)

THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC MEETING

Instructor:

Investigator David Newman is retired from the Norfolk Police Department after 23 years of service. His experience in Norfolk includes over 15 years in the bureau serving both in homicide & forensics and involvement in over 350 death investigations and high-profile homicides.

Between January and December of 2000 David Newman served as the lead investigator in over 19 homicides and was awarded Investigator of the Year by the Norfolk Police and VFW for that year. He also had the privilege to work with and learn from several outstanding prosecutors both from and outside of the City of Norfolk Prosecutors Office. Some include John Doyle, Jimmy Entas, Phillip Evans and also Paul B. Ebert and Richard A. Conway who were instrumental in the successful prosecution of John Muhammad in Virginia Beach.

While serving in forensics he has handled over 2300 cases and crime scenes including an additional 45 homicide investigations. Investigator Newman received his bachelor's degree from Old Dominion University in 1986 in criminal justice and has lectured over 3000 hours to law enforcement agencies across the country on the topic of homicide investigation and its related forensic applications. His courses began in 2001 at the request of outside agencies and have been taught in conjunction with the Virginia State Division of Forensic Science and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Investigator Newman also instructs basic and advanced forensics at Thomas Nelson College in Virginia, equivocal death scenes at the Virginia State Division of Forensic Science Academy and is a qualified expert in death investigation and its related forensic fields which include bloodstain pattern interpretation, gunshot residue and trace, wound pattern interpretation and post-mortem interval and crime scene event reconstruction. He has provided hundreds of hours of expert testimony in criminal trial proceedings and is a nationally recognized speaker and authority on this subject.

This Course as been approved by ILETSB to meet the following mandates:

Constitutional and Proper use of Authority (1 Hour)

Legal Updates (1 Hour)

Officer Wellness and Mental Health (1 Hour)

Procedural Justice (3 Hours)

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect (1 Hour)

Lead Homicide Investigator (7 Hours)