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Child Death Investigations

Instructor: Trish Fore, D-ABMDI

December 8 - 9, 2025

Tuition: \$389 | Hours: 8 am - 5 pm

Location:

Leon County Sheriff's Office
2825 Municipal Way | Tallahassee, FL 32304

Lodging Information:

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
2725 Graves Road | Tallahassee, FL 32303
850-536-2000

Go to the course page at www.tritechtraining.com for hotel rate and booking info.

Certification: The Child Death Investigations course is approved for 16 hours of certification/re-certification credit hours by the IAI Crime Scene Investigation Board.



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ABOUT TRITECH

A leader in the forensics market, Tri-Tech Forensics provides evidence collection and crime scene investigation products and training to crime labs and crime scene investigators throughout the world. With over 30 years of experience, we are the nation's most proficient developer and manufacturer of forensic kits. We are committed to providing our customers with state-of-the-art forensics products and services at affordable prices. It is our goal, through our research and development program, to continue to develop superior products and training to aid in all aspects of crime scene investigation and crime lab analysis. We know how important our products and training are to the forensics community, from investigation to prosecution. Our mission is the same as our customers – *Identify. Protect. Preserve.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Child Death Investigations

Because communication is key to any death investigation, this training has a focus on interdisciplinary approaches and collaboration. Professionals from a variety of agencies are encouraged to attend.

With every state in the country now having some type of child fatality review system in place, the process by which child death cases are handled and investigated is under immense scrutiny. Every agency having a role in a child death investigation must be prepared to have their involvement analyzed from beginning to end.

Communication is the number one reason agencies identify as a system issue in many investigations. Unfortunately, it is an issue that can permeate and wreak havoc at any stage of an investigation.

This program addresses child deaths from an interdisciplinary perspective. This approach provides all agencies the necessary information to not only investigate and gather information but to understand and appreciate the details and collaboration required in order to make a final determination of cause and manner of death.

Topics include

- Manners of death—Natural, Accidental, Suicide, Homicide, Undetermined. We will explore each and the methods pathologists employ to reach their determinations.
- Mechanisms of death—The pathological aspects of cause of death. We will discuss interpretation of injuries, and the lack of injuries. What do the pathologists look for with their various tests and analyses? What does asphyxiation look like, or can you tell?
- What is SIDS anyway? We will do an in depth analysis of this subjective and often misapplied diagnosis.
- Why are infants so complicated? Regardless of circumstances, infant death cases have many associated issues that must be addressed during the investigative process.
- Scene investigations—What makes a child death scene different?
- Court issues—Now that we are here, what is going to happen?
- Reconstructions—A must of any infant death, reconstructions are a valuable tool regardless of the age of the decedent. We will do re-enactments and cover exactly how to do a complete infant/child death scene reconstruction.
- Interviewing families—Talking to families and gathering information from them can be difficult and unnerving in highly emotional situations. We will address specific strategies for obtaining maximal information from families.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

TRISH FORE, D-ABMDI



Trish Fore is a 1994 West Virginia University (WVU) graduate. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Child Development and Family Studies while on a full scholarship with the WVU Women's Basketball team. Upon graduation, Ms. Fore began her career in child advocacy as a Child Protective Services (CPS) worker in West Virginia. Starting out investigating child abuse and neglect allegations, Ms. Fore's experience and education allowed her a smooth transition into the position of Investigative Supervisor.

In 2011, Ms. Fore was made Director of the West Virginia Fatality Review program where she coordinated and reviewed domestic violence and all preventable child deaths. Ms. Fore organized multidisciplinary reviews to identify case trends, patterns, and risk factors. Ms. Fore promoted public awareness of child deaths and specialized in infant death scenes.

As Director, Ms. Fore was housed in the West Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner where she gained extensive experience in death scene investigations. She obtained her WV Medicolegal Death Scene Investigation certification and was appointed as a County Medical Examiner (CoME), working evenings and weekends. Ms. Fore also trained law enforcement professionals, social workers, and medical personnel on child death investigations across the state of West Virginia.