



## **40-HOUR OREGON CERTIFIED MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATOR COURSE:**

**Next Course Date: February 8th – 12th, 2010  
08:00 – 17:00 M-F**

(Recommended Course for Deputy Medical Examiner appointees, not yet required)

The State Medical Examiner is dedicated to reach every deputy medical examiner in Oregon with a standardized training program that follows the national guidelines for death investigation developed by the NIJ. The hope is that everyone currently serving as a death investigator will receive the training within the next five years.

This course is offered to Medical Examiners, Full-time Deputy Medical Examiners, District Attorneys, Part Time Deputy Medical Examiners, Attorneys, Law enforcement and Medical Professionals. This will also be the preference order for class selection.

This course will be offered twice a year at this facility only. This is a free course, but students are responsible for books, travel, per diem, lodging etc.

Course information.

### **Oregon Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Program**

***A comprehensive medicolegal death investigator training program designed to offer professional development to death investigators throughout the state.***

Three elements of training:

- 1.) 40-hour nationally accredited course of initial instruction.
- 2.) 8-hour clinical externship for performance skill development.
- 3.) 12-hours of annual continuing education to maintain current skills.

Classroom instruction: Students participate in a 40-hour course of instruction presented by subject matter experts and designed to introduce the NIJ guidelines for death scene investigation. These guidelines are tempered to reflect the Oregon medical examiner system and both State and local practices. Students receive specific instruction on Oregon's medical examiner law, forensic pathology, death scene documentation, physical and circumstantial evidence collection and use of the NIJ standards in the 'real-world' setting. Students must successfully complete a multiple-choice examination at the conclusion of this course.

8-hour clinical externship: After completing the 40-hour classroom portion of the training program; students are scheduled to spend one day in the forensic laboratory with a physician medical examiner or forensic pathologist. During this one-on-one learning opportunity, students gain valuable experience in conducting body examinations, procuring biological specimens for toxicology analysis, report reviews and direct interaction with the physician medical examiner. Upon successful completion of the classroom and clinical portions of training, students are awarded certification as Oregon Certified Medicolegal Death Investigators.

12-hours annual continuing education: Each Oregon Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator is required to complete 12-hours of approved continuing education annually. This process insures that each investigator is continuing to learn and expand their knowledge and skills in the ever changing field of death investigation.

### **Who should take this course?**

- County level physician and deputy medical examiners whose primary responsibility in the medicolegal investigation of death in their community.
- Police officers who have a dual role at the death scene that includes both law enforcement concerns and investigation of death for the County medical examiner.
- County District Attorney's and others with a common interest in a comprehensive death investigation program.
- Medical personnel with forensic background interested in death investigation training to become a deputy medical examiner.
- Detectives/criminalists seeking training in death investigation.

### **Who should not take this course?**

- Police officers/supervisors who do not routinely serve as deputy medical examiner for their county.
- Detectives/criminalists seeking specific training in homicide investigation.
- Public safety professionals who are not directly aligned with the County medical examiner program.

## **Course Curriculum**

The Oregon Certified Medicolegal Death investigator course will use a modular and scenario based format to prepare the death investigator to work with:

- 9 Interaction with Federal, State & Local agencies
- Communications
- Interacting with families
- Death Investigation
- 9 Identifying and preserving evidence
- 9 Maintaining ethical and legal responsibilities
- 9 Scientific and medical knowledge
- 9 Coping with job related stress

## **Course Materials**

The course will use the manual:

*The Silent Science, Jeff McLennan*

Information regarding ordering a hard copy of this manual will be provided upon your acceptance into the class. You will be provided a CD version at no cost.

*Guidelines for Death investigation, National Institute for Justice*

If you wish to attend this course, download the OCMLDI application on this web page and send it to Eugene Gray, Forensic Administrator, Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office, 13309 SE 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100, Clackamas, OR 97015.

**Accepted students will be notified 30 days prior to the class.**