



**THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF DEATH INVESTIGATION
FOR DETECTIVES AND FIRST RESPONDERS
*TWO-DAY PROGRAM!**

Special Emphasis on Equivocal Deaths

- Anatomy of a Drug Overdose - Trends and Red Flags
- Asphyxia and Smothering-Analyzing the scene
- Determining the Manner of Death in a Drowning
- When are Falls NOT Accidents
- Baby Deaths-Reenactments in Co Sleeping
- Sudden Unexplained Deaths in Babies and Children & Homicides
- Homicide by Neglect
- Officer Involved Shootings
- Autoerotic Deaths
- Mass Casualties
- COVID and Public Health Deaths



DATES: APRIL 30, 2026 - MAY 1, 2026

TIMES: 0830 - 1630

HOST: MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPT.

YOUR TRAINER: MARISA EDELBERG, F-ABMDI

COST: \$249.00 PER OFFICER

**This two-day program is an expanded version of the
one-day course taught by Marisa Edelberg*

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DEATH INVESTIGATION: THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF HOMICIDES, SUICIDES, AND ACCIDENTS

★ DAY ★

Explore the causes and manners of death through various case studies. Did you know there's six manners of death-not just the five commonly known? Learn the essential do's and don'ts of handling death scenes based on their classification. What is the role of a death investigator? Understand how law enforcement and death investigators can best collaborate.

Bonus session: Analyzing celebrity deaths with case studies and pictures.

★ DAY ★

Drug Deaths: Examine current trends in drugs in the United States. Learn how to recognize a potential overdose related death based on scene analysis and how to best process the evidence. Review a list of red flags to help assist with scene interpretation

Equivocal Deaths: Learn what happens when the manner and cause of death are unclear. Explore the complexities of undetermined deaths and how medical examiners navigate them. This includes homicides, electrocutions, drownings, sexual assaults, and vulnerable populations (e.g. children, elderly, or homeless individuals). Emphasis is placed on a team based investigative approach.

Meet Your Trainer



*Marisa Edelberg, F-ABMDI
Medicolegal Death Investigator*

Marisa Edelberg has worked over 17 years as a Medicolegal Death Investigator. She is 1 out of 315 investigators in the country who is Board Certified as a Fellow for The American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. She is also a CT POST certified instructor in the fields of crime scene processing as well as drug evidence recognition and identification. She has worked as a trainer for the Spector Criminal Justice Network since 2017. She has recently accepted a position as a trainer for Pinnacle TCI, a law enforcement training company out of Virginia.

In addition to her daily workload of homicide, suicide, and accident scene investigation, Marisa has collaborated on illicit drug task force working groups alongside CTIC, CT Statewide Narcotics, HIDTA, and the DEA to gather data on CT overdoses. Marisa's focus in these groups is typically limited to heroin, synthetic opioids, and fentanyl related deaths. She has presented to a variety of government, state, and local agencies, including but not limited to the FBI, HIDTA INTEL, CT Fairfield Detective School, and NEOA Criminal Investigation School. She presented several times at the International Forensic Medicine Association Death Investigation seminar in Daytona Beach, Florida, working alongside death investigators from around the country. She trained the Vermont State Troopers, their Detectives, and their local State's Attorneys. She has trained various police departments in Connecticut including Hartford, East Hartford, Enfield, Southington, Manchester, Waterbury, and Shelton, as well as CT State's Attorneys. She has also trained for Hartford Healthcare Hospitals, EMS PRO, and local EMS, EMT, and paramedic first responders. She has provided brief synopsis training at various public opioid conferences sponsored by and for the DPH in CT. Marisa has also consulted as an expert witness on a drug related death outside of CT.

Marisa's trainings typically focus on anatomy of a drug overdose at death scenes as well as recognizing red flags of likely overdoses. Her list titled "Red Flags Indicating Drug Overdoses at Death Scenes" has been widely dispersed to agencies throughout the state and has been used as a model for neighboring states. She focuses on analyzing evidence that is present, as well as evidence that is missing from scenes. She also focuses on differential diagnosis related to cause and manner of deaths on crime scenes. In addition to deaths related to drug overdose trainings, Marisa offers overall death investigation trainings so that those present on death scenes may interpret evidence and post mortem artifacts properly.

Marisa has a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Russian from Binghamton University, and an M.S. in Criminal Justice: Forensic Computer Investigation specializing in Forensic Science: Advanced Investigation from the University of New Haven.