



# DEATH INVESTIGATION TIPS

- Follow safety precautions!
  - ✓ Wear personal protective equipment (PPE).
    - Gloves
    - Mask or mask and shield
  - ✓ Keep a pair of shoes that you wear on death scenes and not inside your home or office.
  - ✓ Wash your hands!
  
- Go to the scene (*if not possible, maybe someone from the scene can videochat you, so you are able to see what it looks like*).
  - ✓ Check the basic environmental conditions.
    - What was the temperature outside? Inside the house?
    - If the deceased is found in a vehicle, is it still running or turned off?
    - Is there medication at the scene?
    - Is there drug paraphernalia or anything else that indicates drug use?
    - Was there a suicide note?
  
- Interview family, friends, medical professionals, and others who might have relevant information.
  - ✓ What did the deceased do for a living?
  - ✓ Were they have symptoms of any illness?
    - Shortness of breath?
    - Fever?
    - Headaches?
    - Stomach aches?
    - Anything else out of the ordinary for that person?
    - Were the symptoms new over the last few days, or weeks, or months?
  - ✓ Did they have pre-existing conditions or illnesses?
  - ✓ Was the deceased acting out of character in the days prior to their death?
  - ✓ Collect contact information for follow-up questions.
    - Doctor's name and general location
    - Recent hospital visits and hospital name
    - Family member name and phone number
    - Law enforcement who was on the scene
  
- Send the body for autopsy if necessary.

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