

Ann Bucholtz, Death Investigation

Chapter 2: Death Scene Investigation

Test Bank

1. The first arriving officer at a scene _____.
 - *a. Prevents disturbance of the body and isolates any witnesses so they may be interviewed by a detective.
 - b. Collects evidence prior to the detective's arrival
 - c. Removes the wallet from the body
 - d. Contacts next of kin to advise them of the death
2. In gunshot deaths, it is always a good practice to _____.
 - a. Wash the decedent's hands.
 - b. Cut the fingernails
 - *c. Secure the hands by placing brown paper bags over them prior to transport
 - d. Place towels over the hands
3. Medications with the name of the decedent or ones in their possession need to be:
 - a. Flushed down the toilet
 - *b. Collected and removed from the location where the body was found
 - c. Taken back to the pharmacy where they were filled
 - d. Left at the scene
4. To protect against loss, any large quantities of money on the decedent should be:
 - *a. Counted with a witness, photographed, then placed into an envelope and sealed with initials of both parties on the envelope.
 - b. Released directly to the family
 - c. Left at the scene
 - d. Placed in the body bag with the decedent
5. Jewelry should be left on the body because:
 - a. It is difficult to remove
 - *b. It allows the pathologist to assess any patterned indentations or marks and correlate them with the jewelry that was in place
 - c. The family wants it left on the body
 - d. It insures that it is not lost
6. In the case of scattered remains that can occur during a traffic, airplane, or train accident, it is best to:
 - a. Photograph the area and pick up all the remains and place them in one bag

- *b. Make a diagram and label the tissues in separate bags
- c. Photograph the area and place a bright sticker on each part of the remains to easily identify the remains
- d. Only collect the largest pieces of the remains

7. One of the hardest parts of photographing a death scene is:

- a. Keeping law enforcement out of the photographs
- b. Getting the GPS coordinates into the photograph
- *c. Keeping the photos straight, going from one scene to the next, and not having an opportunity to download them from the camera
- d. Keeping the photographs in focus

8. The best way to divide the photos from one case to the next is to:

- a. Use fluorescent paint to write the case number beside the body
- b. Take a photograph of your shoe to signify the end of the photo sequence
- *c. Photograph a 3x5 card or small dry erase board with the address location, photographer's last name, date, and case number
- d. Photograph the decedent's feet first

9. When photographing a revolver:

- a. The magazine should be photographed first
- b. The bullets should be removed from the magazine first and then photographed
- c. Do not be concerned with a serial number
- *d. The cylinder should be photographed as it is ejected from the firing position

10. All guns need to have their serial numbers and both sides of the weapon photographed after they are made safe.

*True
False

11. It is better to remove a weapon protruding from the body prior to transport.

True
*False

12. It is best to take wet clothing and place it in a plastic bag to best preserve the evidence.

True
*False

13. Tape can be difficult to package because it is sticky and is best placed inside a box rather than a paper bag if possible.

*True

False

14. For permanent storage, all evidence must be sealed prior to storage to ensure that it has not been tampered with or cross-contaminated.

*True

False

15. A chain of custody is a form listing any seized evidence in a sequential fashion and noted in the same fashion as the identifying marks on the packaging.

*True

False

16. It is not important to sign, date, and time each transfer from person to person.

True

*False

17. Pertinent observations such as antacid use, over-the-counter medication use, examination of the trash, alcohol bottles, drug residue, etc., are important to include in the report.

*True

False

18. It is not necessary to obtain a treating physician on a decedent.

True

*False

19. It is a good practice to contact the next of kin after the exam or autopsy to relay the cause of death and findings.

*True

False