

Electronic Communication for Medical Examiners and Coroners

Presented to the National Commission of Forensic Science

Randy Hanzlick, MD, NCFS MDI-Subcommittee Member

April 30, 2015

Basecamp LLC [US] https://basecamp.com/2631053/

Basecamp: NCFS MDI Subcommittee | Basecamp Classic Projects

New features Account Upgrades Sign out

Basecamp New stuff! Projects Calendar Everything Progress Everyone Me

Jump to a project, person, label, or search...

NCFS MDI Subcommittee Admin
John Fudenberg & Vince DiMaio, MD, Co-Chairs
Last updated 7 hours ago

Increasing the Supply of Forensic Pathologists
Kurt Nolte, MD & Vince DiMaio, MD, Project Leaders
Last updated an hour ago

Networking Medicolegal Offices
Randy Hanzlick, MD, Project Leader
Last updated on Mar 13

Model Law Project
Victor Weedn, Chair, John Fudenberg, Vice-Chair
Last updated 2 hours ago

New Project

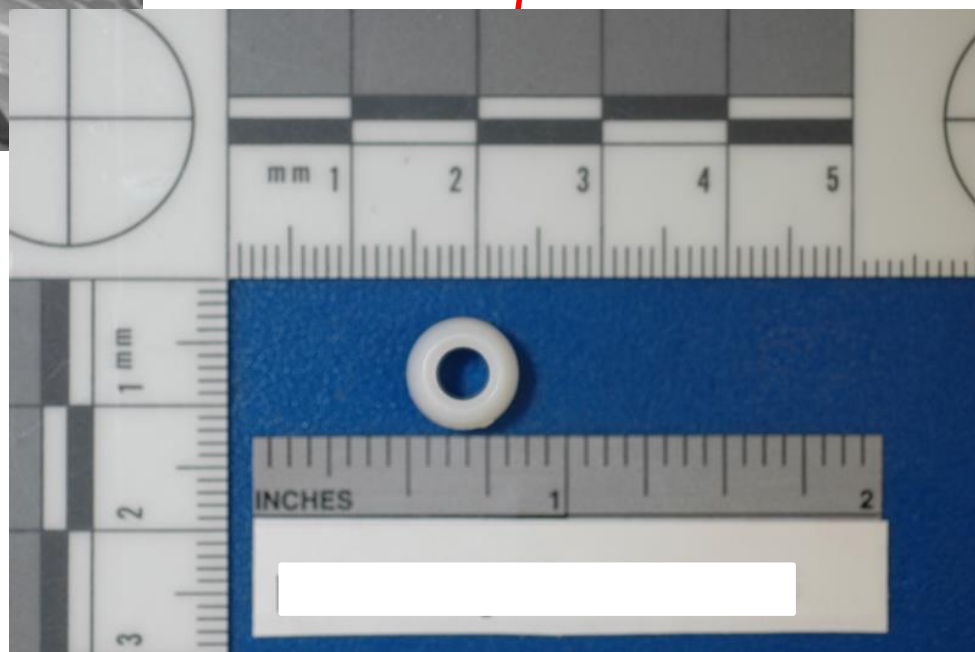
Templates





Soft pillow

Part of Hair Ornament





NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FORENSIC SCIENCE



Accreditation of Medicolegal Death Investigation Offices

Subcommittee

Recommendation from the Subcommittee on Medicolegal Death Investigation.

Type of Work Product

Policy Recommendation

Recommendation

The National Commission on Forensic Science requests that the Attorney General of the United States approve policy that recommends that all offices, facilities or institutions performing medicolegal death investigation activities be accredited by the year 2020.

Statement of Issue

Accreditation demonstrates compliance with industry and professional standards and performance criteria and provides an independent measure of assurance to the tax-paying citizens of the community served. Unfortunately, many government bodies which fund forensic science or health and human services programs do not give priority to death investigation systems making it difficult for such systems to achieve accreditation.

Unlike traditional publicly-funded crime laboratories, most medicolegal death investigation offices, medical examiners and coroner offices are not accredited. Of the estimated 2,366 medicolegal death investigation offices in the United States, less than 100 are accredited by either the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) or the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IAC&ME), the only two accrediting bodies in the United States for medicolegal death investigation institutions. (See Appendix A, Table 1).



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FORENSIC SCIENCE



Certification of Medicolegal Death Investigators

Subcommittee

Recommendation from the Subcommittee on Medicolegal Death Investigation.

Type of Work Product

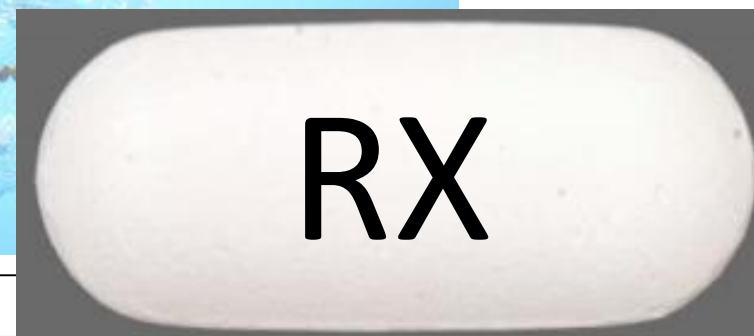
Directive Recommendation

Recommendation

The National Commission on Forensic Science requests that the Attorney General of the United States approve a recommendation that directs the Office of Justice Programs to establish a priority to use grant funds to defray the cost of ensuring all medicolegal death investigators (MDI) and Coroners (functioning as medicolegal death investigators) in the United States obtain professional certification by the year 2020.

Statement of Issue

Certification is a basic credential for individuals practicing within a particular industry. ABMDI registry certification is the primary and basic credential for medicolegal death investigators (ABMDI "board certification" is an advanced credential). Unfortunately, many government agencies that have the capability to provide financial support to medical examiner or coroner offices do not give priority to enhancing professional competency of our Nation's MDIs. Federal funding to support certification of MDI practitioners are non-existent. The National Research Council's (NRC) has published two reports which have components that emphasize the importance of improving our Nation's MDI system, which is demonstrative of the fact that this vital community of practitioners is not properly supported to ensure competency. It is estimated that between 5,000 to 8,000 professionals would require certification under this recommendation, this number including approximately 1500 persons currently certified but requiring recertification during the next five years.



Positive Findings:

<u>Compound</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Units</u>
Ethanol	47	mg/dL
Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)	0.047	g/100 mL
Nordiazepam	440	ng/mL
Codeine - Free	5.7	ng/mL
Morphine - Free	72	ng/mL
<u>6-Monoacetylmorphine - Free</u> (= Heroin)	6.4	ng/mL
<u>Fentanyl</u>	40	ng/mL



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

Railway
Fatality
Data

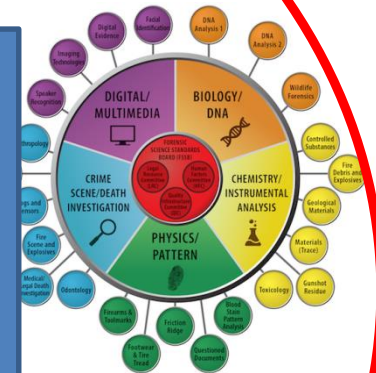


Grant
Announcements

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Judicial
Decision

NIST FORENSIC SCIENCES
OSAC



Medical Examiners and Coroners



International Association of
Coroners & Medical Examiners

Committed to advancing the accurate determination of cause and the manner of death through the utilization of science, medicine and the law



ABMDI
American Board of
Medicolegal Death Investigators



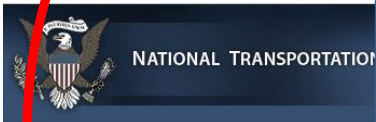
Autopsy
Standards



U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Protecting and Promoting Your Health



The FDA Safety Information
Adverse Event Reporting System



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION
SAFETY BOARD



Official website of the Department of Homeland Security

Homeland
Security



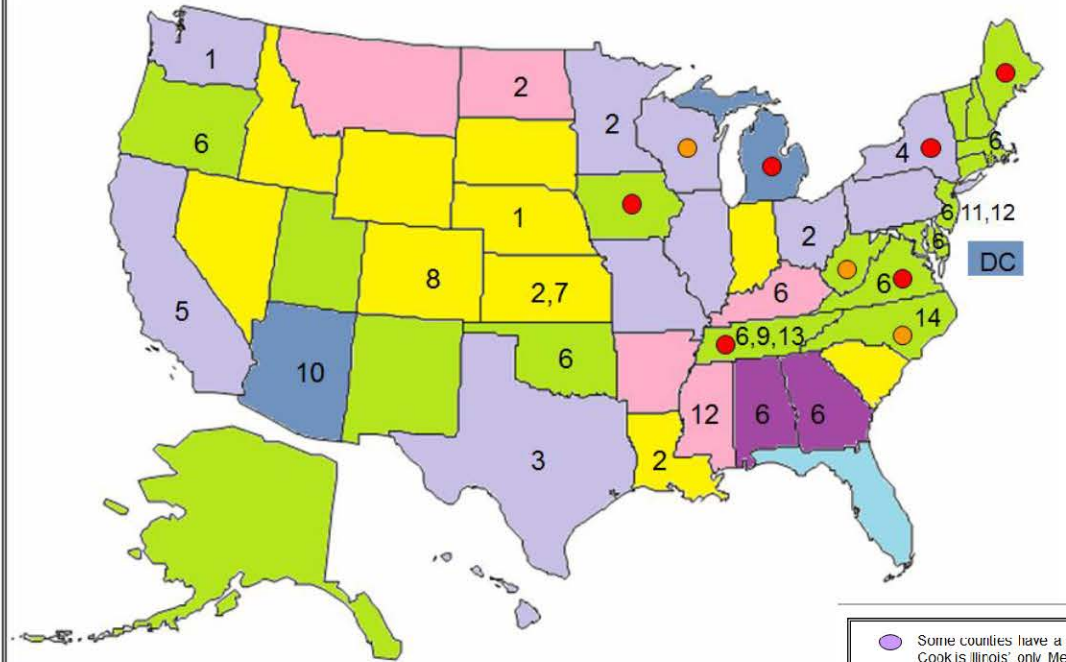
NHTSA
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC
SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

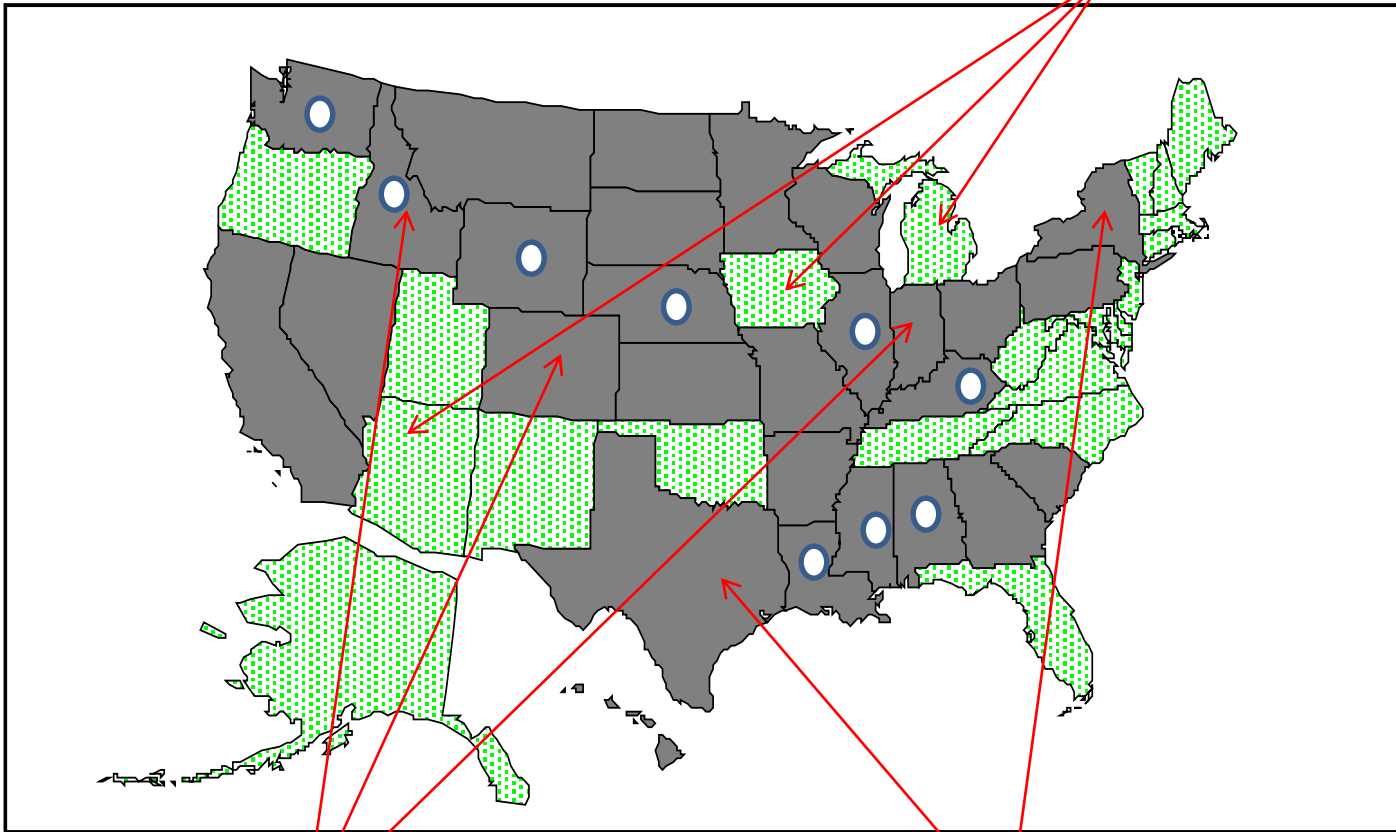
Death Investigation Systems: 2015



- Some counties have a medical examiner and many or most have a coroner. Cook is Illinois' only Medical Examiner County, and Summit and Cuyahoga are Ohio's only Medical Examiner Counties.
 - State Medical Examiner with coroners in each county
 - State Medical Examiner with various types of non-coroner regional or local assistance
 - State Medical Examiner assisting coroners in most counties, at least one autonomous county medical examiner
 - District Medical Examiners
 - Medical Examiner (physician) in each county. District of Columbia has a single medical examiner office.
 - Coroner in each county
1. County prosecutor is coroner in some Washington counties and all counties in Nebraska.
 2. Coroners are required to be physicians
 3. Justices of the peace serve as coroner in some counties
 4. Some counties may have more than one coroner. District attorney is coroner in some counties
 5. In most counties the Sheriff is coroner
 6. State medical examiner with more than one office in the state
 7. Coroners are appointed and serve districts of multiple counties
 8. Coroners are appointed in 4 counties. In Denver, its more like an ME system with an appointed Chief ME/Coroner.
 9. Appointed physician (usually not pathologist) medical examiners in each county who refer cases to regional centers
 10. Although correct by statute, not all AZ counties have physician medical examiners. Some counties use other centers.
 11. New Jersey State Medical Examiner has oversight but system runs more like a district/regional system
 12. State Medical Examiner position currently vacant
 13. Some counties also have coroners elected by county commission; they do transport but do not sign death certificates.
 14. NC has one State ME Office and designated regional pathologists also provide autopsy services to the county medical examiners. A few counties have elected coroners who operate within the ME statutes and are responsible to the OCME.
- Some Local "Medical Examiners" are physicians who are not pathologists
 - Some Local "Medical Examiners" are not physicians

Turnover and Tracking Issues

County Medical Examiner Terms Vary



Coroner Term Limits

Multiple Coroners per County

- Election year varies between and within some states
- Term lengths vary



bill.jones@gmail.com



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration



OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

National Institute

FDA

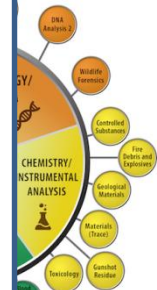
Food and Drug Administration
MEDWA



Fatality Analysis



ENSIC
ENCES



National Association of
& Medical Examiners

Accurate determination of the cause and the
elucidation of manner, medicine and the law



No Common Communication Route

“Forensic” Science means “Public” Science, not “Crime” Science

