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Complete Homicide Investigations

Instructors: Dr. Erik Christensen, Detective Tom Wallace, Sergeant John Allen,
and Deputy District Attorney Sandi Johnson

April 2-6, 2018 (8:00-17:00) 40 hours

Hosted by: Thornton Police Department

Thornton, Colorado (Denver Area)

This 5-day course will walk you through the complete homicide investigations process (step by step)- from the crime scene to autopsy to investigation to court. Our homicide course will give you expert instruction from four different perspectives: a working Medical Examiner, a sworn crime scene specialist, a veteran Homicide Investigator, and a highly skilled trial Prosecutor.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to provide an experienced officer/investigator with the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct the most complete homicide investigation possible.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course was built from survey responses of investigators from all over the United States when asked what they wanted in a homicide class.

A Medical Examiner will instruct the first day. The M.E. will discuss autopsy, death, injuries, wound types, decomposition, and much more.

A sworn Detective who specializes in crime scenes, and crime scene reconstruction will teach the second day. He will also instruct on social media and importance of digital evidence in your case.

A veteran Homicide Investigator will instruct the third and fourth days. He will walk you through the entire homicide investigation process from start to finish, step by step. This will be accomplished by liberal use of crime scene photos & videos clips, crime scene processing, canvassing, autopsy, creating leads, timelines, interviewing witnesses, gathering & using intelligence, developing a suspect, DNA, suspect interviews, arresting the suspect(s) and much more!

An experienced trial Prosecutor will give instruction on the fifth day. The prosecutor will present a homicide jury trial. The Prosecutor will discuss obtaining essential evidence, interviews, using timelines, and present information on how to avoid false confessions and other common pitfalls.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate proper incident response, establish proper scene security, scene documentation, scene management, evidence collection & processing
- Discuss organized vs. disorganized crime scenes
- Discuss establishing the legal right to stay on scene (search warrants, written consent)
- Discuss effective ways and techniques to process the homicide scene
- Discuss how to process a body dump sites and vehicles used to transport bodies
- Discuss area canvass and secondary canvass
- Discuss death notifications
- Discuss proper techniques for interviewing & interrogation – Miranda, juvenile interviews, telephone interviews, and documenting interviews
- Recognize the role of crime scene analysis and crime reconstruction
- Discuss the importance of follow-up
- Understand the importance of social media and digital evidence
- Discuss how to properly prepare for the autopsy
- Understand how to prioritize leads
- Understand the use of timelines
- Understand the role of media and how to use the media to help your case
- Discuss suspect in custody- arrest, Miranda, statements, collection of evidence
- Discuss legal issues- Miranda, 4th Amendment, 5th Amendment, 6th Amendment, and false confessions
- Understand how to properly document your homicide case
- Discuss how to make your case the best possible case for trial



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Course Location

Thornton Police Department
9551 Civic Center Drive
Thornton, CO 80229

Training contact: **Sergeant Chris Fusetti** at
(720) 977-5079 or Chris.Fusetti@cityofthornton.net

INSTRUCTORS

Erik Christensen, M.D.

Erik Christensen received his Bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and his medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He spent ten years in the Army where he received internship training in Pediatrics and residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology. While in the Army, he served as a flight surgeon and general medical officer as well as Chief of Primary Care and director of autopsy and blood banking at various posts. Since leaving the Army, he received fellowship training in forensic pathology in Richmond, Virginia and has worked full-time as a forensic pathologist in Virginia, South Carolina and Utah. He was appointed Chief Medical Examiner for the state of Utah in July 2016. He is board certified in Anatomic, Clinical and Forensic Pathology and is a fellow of the National Association of Medical Examiners and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. He is currently a fellow of the Pathology/Biology section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, a fellow of the National Association of Medical Examiners and is registered by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. He is certified by the American Board of Pathology in Clinical, Anatomic and Forensic Pathology.

Detective Tom Wallace

Tom Wallace has been a police officer in Utah for over 17 years. He works for a city of over 100,000 residents. Tom has been assigned to patrol division, motors division, traffic enforcement division, and the investigations division. Tom is assigned to an 80 person County Officer-Involved Critical Incident Task Force, which he has done for over 10 years. He has spent 6 years in investigations, working on homicides, suspicious deaths, Officer-Involved Shootings, sexual assaults, child abuse and child sexual abuse. Tom is a Drug Recognition Expert and a traffic accident reconstructionist. He uses 3D scanning tools and software for crime scene documentation and reconstruction. Tom tracks fugitives and wanted suspects using UC tools, social media, and the Internet. He is also able to extract evidence from cellular phones and computers with his digital forensics background.

Sergeant John Allen

John Allen started his 20+ year law enforcement career as a police officer with the New Mexico State Police. He was hired by the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office in 2001. John worked patrol and was assigned to the Emergency Response Team. In 2004, he selected to become a member of SWAT and was promoted to Detective, working as a Violent Crimes detective. In 2006, John was selected to become a Homicide Detective. John was promoted to Sergeant in 2013 and 6 months later became the Sergeant over the Homicide Unit. John currently supervises the Homicide Unit, Violent Crime Unit, the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), and the SWAT team. John holds a Master Instructor Certificate in the areas of Defensive Tactics and Use of Force. He attended college at the University of New Mexico.

Sandi Johnson, Deputy D.A.

Sandi Johnson has been a Deputy District Attorney with the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office for the last fifteen years. She was a member of the Organized Gang Prosecution Team for seven years and spent the last four years on the Special Victims Unit. Starting in 2006 she created and led the Major Crash Team, which prosecutes all criminal deaths involving automobiles in Salt Lake County. She is currently an adjunct professor at the S.J. Quinney College of Law, and has served as a faculty member for the Utah Prosecution Council teaching the Basic Prosecutor Course. She is a member of the Board for the Utah Office for Victims of Crime as well as the Salt Lake Valley Emergency Fund. She is a member of the Criminal Model Jury Instructions Committee. She received her J.D. in 2002 from the S.J. Quinney College of Law and graduated from the University of Utah in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a certificate in Criminology.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Officers, deputies, investigators, coroners/medical examiners, crime scene personnel, first line supervisors, agents, supervisors, command staff, and prosecuting attorneys. Due to the sensitive nature of the subject matter, attendance is restricted to sworn, civilian, and military law enforcement personnel or those who are directly involved in the criminal justice system.

DATE: April 2-6, 2018

HOTELS: [Doubletree by Hilton Denver-Thornton 83 E 120TH Ave., Thornton, CO 80233](#) (303) 920-8000

TUITION: \$650.00** per person **NOTE: The seat is not guaranteed until the tuition is paid.** Unless otherwise arranged with Code 4 Consultants, students accepted to attend the course must pay the course fee by

MATERIALS: Attendees will receive a comprehensive course manual, online access to Homicide forms & checklists, and a certificate of attendance.

TO REGISTER: Go to www.code4consultants.com and click the Register tab. Fill out the registration form and then click on Payment tab to pay for the course. Click [HERE](#) to register now!

****Agencies sending 3 or more officers can receive tuition discounts****