



# Modern Death Investigation Pennsylvania Coroner's Basic Education Course

12-17 December, 2022

Hershey, PA

Sponsored by HD Forensics, LLC

## Syllabus

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### Monday, Dec 12. The Office of the Pennsylvania Coroner: Roles and Duties

- 7:30-8:00 Registration
- 8:00-8:30 Introduction, Course Content (Dirkmaat)
- 8:30-9:00 **1** History of Coroner/Medical Examiner System in the US (Kiessling)
- 9:00-10:00 **2** Roles and Duties of the Coroner, Part I (Kiessling)
- 10:00-10:15 Break
- 10:15-11:30 **3** Roles and Duties of the Coroner, Part II (Kiessling)
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30-1:30 **4** Pennsylvania State Statutes and Laws for the Coroner's Office (Shanaman-Grim)
- 1:30-3:00 **5** Forensic Evidence in Death Investigations I (Grim)
- 3:00-3:15 Break
- 3:15-5:00 **6** Forensic Evidence in Death Investigations I (Grim)
- 5:00-5:30 **7** Blood samples (Grim)

### Tuesday, Dec. 13. Investigation of Accidental Deaths and the Indoor Crime Scene

- 8:00-9:00 **9** Fatal Motor Vehicle Accidents (Gay)
- 9:00-10:30 **10** Drugs: The New Epidemic (Gay)
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-11:30 **11** Right to Know/Filling out the Death Certificate (Gay)
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30-2:00 **12** Role of Law Enforcement in Death Investigations (Lench)
- 2:00-2:15 Break
- 2:15-4:30 **13** Investigating the Indoor Crime Scene (Hochrein, Jester)
- 4:30-4:45 Break
- 4:45-5:30 **14** Investigating the Indoor Crime Scene: Mock Scene (Hochrein and Jester)

### Wednesday, Dec. 14. Recovery of Physical Evidence and Context at the Outdoor Crime Scene

- 8:00-10:00 **15** Outdoor Crime Scene Reconstruction; Surface Scattered Cases (Dirkmaat)
- 10:00-10:15 Break
- 10:15-11:30 **16** Recovery of Buried Body Cases (Hochrein)
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30-1:30 **17** Fatal Fire Scene Recovery (Dirkmaat)
- 1:30-2:15 **18** Forensic Entomology (Cabo) -zoom-
- 2:15-2:30 Break
- 2:30-4:00 **19** Mass Disaster Scene Recovery and Victim ID Considerations (Dirkmaat and Adserias)
- 4:00-5:30 **20** Role of NTSB in Mass Disaster Events (Kontanis)

## Thursday, Dec. 15. Recovery of Evidence at the Medicolegal Autopsy

8:00-9:15	<b>21</b>	Forensic Odontology (Adserias)
9:15-9:30		Break
9:30-11:30	<b>22</b>	DNA (Young)
11:30-12:30		Lunch
12:30-1:00	<b>23</b>	Introduction to Autopsy and Forensic Pathology (Johnson)
1:30-3:00	<b>24</b>	Postmortem Interval and Natural Disease (Johnson)
3:00-3:15		Break
3:15-4:15	<b>25</b>	Toxicology (Johnson)
4:15-5:30	<b>26</b>	Pediatrics (Johnson)

## Friday, Dec. 16. Establishing Identification, Special Forensic Cases and Court

8:00-9:00	<b>27</b>	Gunshot trauma (Mazuchowski)
9:00-10:00	<b>28</b>	Blunt Force Trauma (Mazuchowski)
10:00-10:15		Break
10:15-11:30	<b>29</b>	Sharp Force Trauma (Mazuchowski)
11:30-12:30		Lunch
12:30-2:30	<b>29</b>	Forensic Anthropology (Adserias and Dirkmaat)
2:30-2:45		Break
2:45-4:30	<b>31</b>	Cause and Manner of Death (Grim)
4:30-5:30	<b>32</b>	Ethics, Morals, Professionalism and Perception (Grim)

## Saturday, Dec. 17. Special Considerations and Overview of the Coroner's Office

8:00-9:00	<b>32</b>	Courtroom Testimony (Grim)
9:00-10:00	<b>33</b>	Mental Health in the Coroner's Office (Grim)
10:00-10:45		Questions
10:45-11:00		Break
11:00-2:00		<b>Examination</b>

## Course Directors

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Dennis C. Dirkmaat, Ph.D., D-ABFA. Applied Forensic Sciences Dept, Mercyhurst University, Erie, PA; HD Forensics  
Joe Adserias-Garriga, Ph.D., D-ABFO. Applied Forensic Sciences Dept., Mercyhurst University, Erie, PA; HD Forensics

## Instructors

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- a. Pam Gay. RN, D-ABMDI. Coroner York Co, PA.
- b. Scott M Grim, D-ABMDI, Lehigh County Coroner (ret.), Allentown, PA
- c. Michael J. Hochrein, Sp. Ag, FBI, (ret.) LaRoche College, Pittsburgh, PA; HD Forensics.
- d. Todd Jester. Applied Forensic Specialist at Precision Laser & Instrument, Inc.
- e. Michael W. Johnson, MD, PhD, Forensic Pathologist, Forensic Pathology Associates, Allentown, PA.
- f. Chuck Kiessling, Coroner Lycoming Co, PA.
- g. Elias Kontanis, Ph.D., Chief, Transportation Disaster Assistance Division, NTSB, Washington.
- h. Edward L Mazuchowski, MD, PhD Forensic Pathologist, Forensic Pathology Associates, Allentown, PA.
- i. Cpl Christine Lench. PSP (ret.). Department of Applied Forensic Sciences, Mercyhurst University, PA.
- j. Arthur W. Young, B.S., F-ABC, Guardian Forensic Sciences, Abington, PA.