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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