

# Conversations with a Medical Examiner

A Panel Discussion

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## Welcome and Housekeeping

- **Dr. Stephen Pustilnik, Fort Bend County Chief Medical Examiner**
- **Dr. Kimberly Molina, Bexar County Chief Medical Examiner**
- **Amber Myers, Staff Attorney, TJCTC**
- **Sarah McKinney, JP Program Administrator, TJCTC**

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## Today's Webinar



Introduction

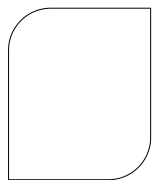


Prepared Material

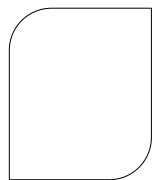


Questions?

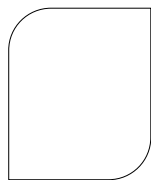
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HOW BIG IS  
YOUR OFFICE?



WHO ELSE IS  
ON YOUR  
TEAM?



DO YOU HANDLE  
AUTOPSIES FOR  
OTHER COUNTIES  
AS WELL? IF SO  
WHICH ONES?

Tell us about  
Your facility.

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Does your lab handle any other testing that may be helpful to JP's?

5



How have your policies changed during the pandemic, if at all?

6

Do you have safety tips for JPs  
who go out to a death scene?

7

What does a day look like in  
your job?

8

Do you have any tips for reporting cause and manner of death on death certificates?

9

What are some common mistakes that you see or hear about on death certificates?

10

What are some good questions for JPs to ask officers or witnesses on the scene to help them identify things like trauma that might not be obvious?

11

What questions should a JP always ask the deceased's doctor and family members (*if possible*) to help them determine cause of death?

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What is the most  
common question  
you get from JP's?

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Question and Answer Notes

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## Cause and Manner of Death Resources

- CDC Cause of Death Mobile Application
  - This is a quick reference guide that provides instructions and examples of how to fill out a death certificate.
  - Emphasizes the certification of medical information.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/mobile-app.htm>



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## Additional Cause and Manner of Death Resources

- National Center for Health Statistics Training on Writing Cause-of-Death Statements & other CDC Resources:  
[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/writing\\_cod\\_statements.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/writing_cod_statements.htm)
- National Center for Health Statistics Guidance on Certifying COVID-19 Deaths:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvss/vsrg/vsrg03-508.pdf>
- CDC “blue sheets” (natural deaths):  
[https://www.dshs.texas.gov/uploadedFiles/Content/Chief\\_Operating\\_Officer/vs/field/TxEVER/blue\\_form.pdf](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/uploadedFiles/Content/Chief_Operating_Officer/vs/field/TxEVER/blue_form.pdf)
- CDC “red sheets” (unnatural deaths):  
[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/red\\_form.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/red_form.pdf)

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## Contact Dr. Molina



- Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office
- <https://www.bexar.org/1376/Medical-Examiners-Office>
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## Contact Dr. Pustilnik

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