

Conversations with a Medical Examiner:

Tricky Issues

1

Welcome and Housekeeping

- **Dr. Corinne Stern, Webb County Chief Medical Examiner**
- **Amber Myers, Staff Attorney, TJCTC**
- **Sarah McKinney, JP Program Administrator, TJCTC**

2



Introduction



Prepared Material



Questions?

Today's Webinar

3

Welcome
Dr. Corinne Stern

Webb County
Chief Medical Examiner

4

Can you explain a bit more about your facility?

5

We often just think about the Medical Examiners, but what other staff works at your office?

6

Do you handle autopsies only for Webb County? Do you assist other areas, if so, what counties?

7

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

8

What services can your office provide to JPs conducting inquests?

9

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

10

University of North Texas Center
For Human Identification

11

Many of the unidentified body cases came from South Texas, is that something you see a lot of in your office?

What does your office do to identify a body when it isn't clear who it is?

12

What are some of the most common questions you get from JP's

13

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>



14

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
- 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
- CDC “red sheets” (unnatural deaths):
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/red_form.pdf

15

Updated Inquests Deskbook (2nd Ed.)

<https://www.tjctc.org/tjctc-resources/Deskbooks.html>

Cause and Manner of Death is discussed in Chapter 5 – pages 21-28.

- *On page 22 you will find a table of resources with links to help you in filling out death certificates.*

16

Contact Info
Dr. Corinne E. Stern
Chief Medical Examiner
Webb County, Texas
(956) 523-4980
Fax (956) 722-7798

cstern@webbcountytexas.gov

17

Save the Date:
November 17th
10am-12pm CST

- “Conversations with a Medical Examiner-A Panel Discussion”
- Dr. Stephen Pustilnik, Fort Bend County Chief Medical Examiner
- Dr. Kim Molina, Bexar County Chief Medical Examiner

18