

# **OFFICER VIRTUAL ACADEMY**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS:**



### **Course Location:**

This is a virtual course, offered online only and available to registered users of the Officer Virtual Academy at all times.

### **Instructor Information:**

#### **Hilary Rodela, Private Investigator, former CSI**

Hilary Rodela is a former crime scene investigator and evidence technician. She has worked at the Ruidoso (NM) Police Department and the Lubbock (TX) Police Department. She is currently a licensed private investigator for the state of New Mexico, working criminal cases and volunteers with the Cold Case Foundation. Mrs. Rodela is also pursuing fingerprint expertise as well as other courses to sharpen her investigative skills. She is the former Associate News Editor for [officer.com](http://officer.com), and is also a curriculum developer for the National Investigative Training Academy.

### **Course Description:**

This course is a basic overview of how to handle death investigations and what to look for. There is a brief lecture on what type of evidence to look for as well as a touch of forensic pathology.

### **Prerequisites:**

There are no prerequisites for attending this program.

### **Course Sequencing:**

- I. Overview of basic death investigation
- II. Proper ways to handle these scenes
- III. Tips on what to look for and how to investigate such scenes.
- IV. Brief overview of forensic pathology
- V. Conclusion

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### **Course Objectives:**

- To learn the best practices for Basic Death Investigation to include materials on:
  - what to look for at scenes
- types of death
- manner versus cause
- stages of death
- interviewing
- evidence to look for
- protocol

### **Course Materials:**

Four Course videos

PDF Handout of PowerPoint Slide presentation

PowerPoint Presentation

40 minutes total in video viewing

Additional Resources:

<https://www.officer.com/investigations/article/21240158/how-to-catch-a-criminal-loose-lips-and-ligature>

<https://www.officer.com/training-careers/education/article/21232018/the-need-for-training-how-and-why-to-reconstruct-crime-scenes>

<https://www.officer.com/investigations/article/10249913/crime-scene-investigations>

<https://www.officer.com/training-careers/education/article/21232018/the-need-for-training-how-and-why-to-reconstruct-crime-scenes>

<https://www.officer.com/investigations/article/12339566/3d-crime-scene-documentation-for-law-enforcement>