

Crime Scene Investigation & Police Procedure
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JURISDICTION - (To conduct an investigation)

Hierarchy : May vary in different states depending on State Constitution

OREGON

Federal (Federal Statutes)
State (Revised Code) State Police
County (County Ordinances)
Municipal (Municipal codes)

WASHINGTON

Federal (Federal Statutes)
County Sheriff (County Ordinance)
Municipal (Municipal codes)
State (Revised Code) Highway Patrol

SEQUENCE OR STEPS WHEN AN INCIDENT IS REPORTED:

(Depending on the size of the department)

1. Call to 911
2. Dispatch sends a uniformed patrol unit
Patrol will evaluate the incident and determine action to be taken
Minor theft or domestic Patrol unit will handle
If a MAJOR crime (Death, rape, Burglary, etc) Patrol officers will secure the scene
(**Tape off the scene**) and call detectives.

(NOTICE I SAID DEATH Only Coroner/ Medical Examiner determines Cause and Manner of death

3. Detectives arrive and begin the investigation (Death)
They don't know if it is a suicide, homicide, accidental or natural death
Since they don't know they treat it as a homicide until facts show different
4. **First and very important is to protect the crime scene :**
Protect against the contamination or loss of evidence

INVESTIGATIVE THEORY (Every person that enters a crime scene brings something to the scene and every person that leaves a crime scene takes something away)- (skin, hair, dirt, trace evidence)

BULLS EYE SYSTEM OF SCENE CONTROL

Cigarette on the side walk - could be lost if not controlled
Saliva on the sidewalk

5. **Special clothes for scene**
Shoe covers, coveralls etc
6. Law enforcement can begin their investigation but there is one thing they can't do – **THEY CAN NOT TOUCH THE BODY**
The **Scene** is the domain of law enforcement
The **Body** is the domain of the coroner or medical examiner

Sometimes the coroner will be called at the beginning to determine time of death – Coroner must enter carefully not to disturb any evidence or touch anything. Full examination will occur later.

When the coroner leaves his shoe cover will be bagged as evidence to be sent to the lab.

7. Only the investigators (or team) enter the scene
 8. The lead investigator calls CSU/ CSI
 9. Collecting evidence is often performed by department CSI or CSU personnel, these are people trained in scientific collection methods. They know how to properly collect, store and send the evidence to the State Crime Lab. Many are civilian and not commissioned officers, **they do not** carry guns, they do not question suspects, they do not conduct follow up leads (this is television only CSI) **they collect evidence and go back to the police station evidence lab.**
 10. 1st Lead Investigators directs the CSU photographer to photograph each piece of evidence – Photos and photo log - long, medium and close up shots (**every investigator has a system**)
 - Photos are taken before anything is touched or moved – thinking about court – cross examination - can not replace it exactly
 - Panoramic photos are taken of each piece of evidence- **Juror see what you see**
 - Photos are taken with ID marker
 - Photos are taken with ruler (ruler is evidence)
 11. Next the investigator directs the CSU to collect and tag all Identified evidence. (**tagged and bagged**) and fingerprint areas that may have suspects fingerprints.
 12. After all photos have been taken and logged and all evidence has been collected and fingerprints taken the final collection of evidence is to vacuum the entire floor thoroughly.
 13. Now the room can be entered by other persons without contamination of any evidence
- Smaller departments the responding officer may be the lead investigator, photographer and evidence collector or they may call the Sheriff Department**
14. After the Investigators or CSI have collected all of the evidence and they are ready to process the body the coroner can now enter scene without contaminating the scene
 15. Coroner arrives and begins to examine the body for evidence the coroner's investigation (cover under CORONER) uses the same theory as Law enforcement "do not contaminate the evidence of the body"
 16. The body is systemically examined by the coroner or ME
 17. Determining time of death from Lividity, rigor mortis and body temperature (Pointing out anything unusual to LE investigators)
 - Time of death – witnesses, events. etc show time of death
 18. Body is placed in body bag by coroner – **Investigator places a lock on it**
 19. Body is removed by the coroner / medical examiner / Funeral home
 20. LE follows coroner to Morgue – **constant vision of coroner's vehicle**
 21. LE observes the coroner place the body in the cooler – evidence tape is applied across zipper of body bag
 22. When the Autopsy is performed the LE examine the evidence tape (no tampering) Body is remove for autopsy
 23. Coroner / Medical Examiner's report is submitted to Law enforcement
 24. Law Enforcement report is submitted to the Prosecutor
 25. Prosecutor determines if there is sufficient evidence to charge the suspect.

CORONER VS MEDICAL EXAMINER

Coroner

Medical Examiner

Cause of death- What caused life to terminate

Manner of death – four categories: Natural, Homicide, Suicide, Accidental (undetermined)

Washington State Counties: Less than 40,000 Part-time Coroner

40,000-250,000 Elected Coroner

240,000 + Commissioner may choose to appoint Medical

Examiner Oregon – Medical examiner only

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LAW

Civil - One individual wrongs another individual

Individuals must provide their own attorney

Individual can drop the suit anytime

Award is in monetary value only

Criminal – one individual wrongs society

An individual robs a small grocery store and assaults the owner

The owner is not the victim – the state is the victim

The owner cannot drop the charges – only the prosecutor can

HIERARCHY OF THE COURTS

State Courts:

Municipal court - Trial Jurisdiction for municipal code violation

District Court - Trial and Civil Jurisdiction for County Ordinance violation and small claim

Superior Court - Trial and Civil Jurisdiction for Felony Cases and civil suits

WA State Court of Appeals - Appellate jurisdiction

WA State Supreme Court - Appellate jurisdiction

Federal Courts :

District Court, - Trial Court Federal Jurisdiction

Circuit Court of Appeals. – Appellate Jurisdiction

US Court of Appeals - Appellate Jurisdiction

First Appearance /Preliminary hearing/

Preliminary hearing / Arrangement for trial

Evidence hearing

DOUBLE JEOPARDY

EVIDENCE

Trace evidence – requires scientific analysis to identify – hair (dog, human, cat etc

Physical – can be held and touched

Circumstantial – cannot be held or touched – (motive)