

## “DEATH RESULTING” INVESTIGATION CHECKLIST

- Investigative reports
  - Sufficiently detailed
  - Accurate
  - Complete list of evidence items seized (including locations)
  - Include all supplemental reports where possible (or indicate they are forthcoming)
  - Document and seize any and all prescription drugs and prescription drug containers
- Witness list
  - Full names, identifiers, addresses, and telephone numbers
  - Include next-of-kin or family representative (will be redacted)
  - Telephone numbers for family representative (will be redacted)
  - Criminal histories
- Witness interviews
  - On scene or same day/night
  - Recorded where possible
  - Corroborated to greatest extent possible
    - Hotel/motel information records?
    - Video surveillance? (gas stations, convenience stores, etc.)
  - Cooperation must be immediate to be effective (record *everything*)
  - Telephone numbers for all co-conspirators
  - Physical descriptions of all co-conspirators (photo line-ups or photo confirmation where possible)
  - Meet locations, vehicle descriptions, etc.
  - Observation of decedent’s behavior in the hours before death
- Suspect interview
  - Lock into a story, no matter what it is
  - Recorded where at all possible
  - Even small admissions are helpful
  - Provably false lies are sometimes better
  - Confirm phone numbers and social media as to suspect and others

- Admission to distribution
  - Quantity?
  - Purity?
  - Source?
  - Victim vulnerability?
  - History with victim?
  - Knowledge of dangers/overdoses? (even generally?)
- Suspect criminal history
  - Prior drug convictions?
  - Probation/parole? (if yes, make appropriate notification)
  - “Other bad acts” or “404(b)” evidence? (what else do you know about this suspect?)
- Electronic evidence
  - Cell phones seized and preserved (protect against remote wiping)
  - Search warrants and/or signed consent form (including passwords)
  - Request for cell site information (next business day where possible)
  - Subscriber information for all known numbers
  - Precision Location Warrant request? (must be supported by P/C)
  - Pen register/trap and trace device (less helpful but only need articulable facts)
  - Social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
- Photographs
  - Deceased (where possible)
  - Drugs, paraphernalia, etc.
  - Cell phone
  - Witnesses
- Report of post-mortem examination
  - Cause and manner of death (“accident” vs. “homicide”)
  - “But for” causation – especially important in mixed drug intoxication deaths.