

31st Annual
MEDICOLEGAL
DEATH AND HOMICIDE
INVESTIGATION
CONFERENCE

August 25-27, 2025

Collinsville, Illinois



Sponsored by the
Illinois Coroners and
Medical Examiners Association
David Harris, President



*Who should attend: Medical Examiners/Coroners,
Medicolegal Death Investigations, Law Enforcement,
Scene Investigators, Prosecutors, Forensic Nurses,
Crimes Against Children Practitioners,
Fatality Review Task Force members and
others who work in the field of death investigation.*

Conference Agenda

Monday August 25, 2025

- 7:00 a.m. *Registration*
- 8:00 a.m. - 8:10 a.m. *Welcome and Introductions*
David Harris, ICMEA President
Erin Ryan, Sherry Black Foundation
- 8:10 a.m. - Noon *Introduction of Crime Scene Staging*
Arthur S. Chancellor, Second Look Training and Consulting
- Noon - 1:00 p.m. *LUNCH BREAK*
- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Crime Scene Staging (Continued)*
Arthur S. Chancellor, Second Look Training and Consulting
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. *Practical Exercise*
Arthur S. Chancellor, Second Look Training and Consulting
- 4:50 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *Debriefing*
Patrick J. Zirpoli, Sherry Black Foundation

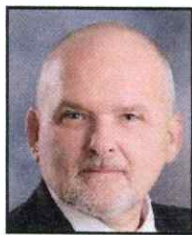
Tuesday August 26, 2025

- 8:00 a.m. - 8:10 a.m. *Introduction*
Erin Ryan, Sherry Black Foundation
- 8:10 a.m. - Noon *Reconstructing Scenes Involving Bloodshed*
Carol J. Ritter, M.S., ABC-GKE
- Noon - 1:00 p.m. *LUNCH BREAK*
- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Processing Scenes Involving Bloodshed*
Carol J. Ritter, M.S., ABC-GKE
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. *Bloodstain Pattern Reconstruction Case Studies*
Carol J. Ritter, M.S., ABC-GKE
- 4:50 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *Debriefing*
Patrick J. Zirpoli, Sherry Black Foundation

Wednesday August 27, 2025

- 8:00 a.m. - 8:10 a.m. *Introduction*
Erin Ryan, Sherry Black Foundation
- 8:10 a.m. - Noon *Crime Scene Analysis/Recognizing Behavior Patterns at the Scene*
Patrick J. Zirpoli Sherry Black Foundation
- Noon - 1:00 p.m. *LUNCH BREAK*
- 1:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. *Death Scenes From Simple to Complex: Achieving Accuracy*
Patrick J. Zirpoli Sherry Black Foundation
- 4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *Debriefing*
Patrick J. Zirpoli Sherry Black Foundation

Patrick J. Zirpoli



Patrick began his career 35 years ago within the law enforcement community. He ultimately joined the Pennsylvania State Police, from which he retired in January of 2015. Throughout his career he worked primarily in criminal investigation specializing in criminal behavior assessment, homicide investigation, equivocal death, and cold case homicide investigation. Patrick's last duty assignment was as the Unit Supervisor of the Pennsylvania State Police, Criminal Investigation Assessment Unit. He was responsible for the coordination of a statewide Criminal Investigation Assessment Unit, which specialized in crimes of a violent or serial nature.

Patrick also coordinated the efforts of the State Police in cold case homicide investigations across Pennsylvania. He supervised and participated in the investigation and analysis of crime assessments relating to homicides, suspicious deaths, and equivocal deaths on a statewide basis. Along with his experience in the field, he served as the Training Coordinator for the Criminal Investigation Assessment Unit. Patrick has had the opportunity to create multiple courses in various subjects, including Crime Assessment, Homicide Investigation, Equivocal Death Analysis, Cold Case Homicide Investigation, Child Death Investigation, Sexual Assault Investigation, Amber Alert/Child Abduction and Missing and Endangered Persons Investigations. Patrick is currently the Sr. Investigative Consultant for the Sherry Black Foundation, a non-profit foundation based in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Arthur S. Chancellor



Steve began his law enforcement career in 1973 when he enlisted in the US Army as a Military Policeman. He remained in the MPs until 1981 when he was accepted into the US Army CID program as a Special Agent. As a CID Special Agent, Steve worked on felony crimes at various military posts across the US and overseas. He later commanded three different CID units and in 2001 retired as a Chief Warrant Officer Four as the Operations Officer for a CID Battalion where he was responsible for the supervision of five different CID units and covered an eleven-state area of responsibility. Once retired Steve was employed by the Mississippi State Crime Lab as a senior

crime scene analyst and conducted the examination of violent crime scenes across Mississippi. In 2004 Steve was transferred from the crime lab to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation (MBI) as the first Director of the MBI Cold Case unit, responsible for assisting police agencies across the state working on unresolved homicides. While working at the Crime lab and MBI, Steve and Grant Graham developed several different training courses for the Mississippi State Police Academy covering topics that included basic and advanced crime scenes, death investigations, and adult sex crimes. Steve is also the co-author of the text, Staged Crime Scenes: Investigating Suspect Misdirection of the Crime Scene, the co-author of the text Death Investigations: The Second Edition, and the author of Investigating Sexual Assault Cases, and Equivocal Death: Investigating Suicides and accidental deaths. (March 2025 publication) covering topics that included basic and advanced crime scenes, death investigations, and adult sex crimes. Steve is also the co-author of the text, Staged Crime Scenes: Investigating Suspect Misdirection of the Crime Scene, the co-author of the text Death Investigations: The Second Edition, and the author of Investigating Sexual Assault Cases, and Equivocal Death: Investigating Suicides and accidental deaths. (March 2025 publication)

Carol J. Ritter, M.S., ABC-GKE



Senior Instructor, Cedar Crest College, Chemical, Physical, & Forensic Sciences Department

Forensic Consultant, Ritter Forensic Consulting

Carol Ritter began her career in 1997 as a forensic scientist with the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Crime Laboratory, where she analyzed controlled drug substances, burglary, sexual assault, and homicide cases and utilized bloodstain patterns to reconstruct crime scenes. She is certified by the American Board of Criminalistics, a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and court qualified greater than 50 times at both the

state and federal levels in areas of drug analysis, body fluid identification, hair identification, and bloodstain pattern reconstruction. She also served for 4 years as the technical coordinator for the PSP lab serology section, where she annually audited 6 state labs, trained new forensic scientists, and provided training to local and state law enforcement agencies in evidence collection and bloodstain pattern reconstruction. In 2017, she retired with 20 years of service to PSP and joined Cedar Crest College where she currently mentors research students and teaches undergraduate and graduate forensic science courses/laboratories in forensic pattern analysis, crime scene reconstruction, and DNA analysis. Ms. Ritter's research focuses on forensic pattern analysis including bloodstain patterns, firearm related patterns, as well as DNA analysis.

In 2020, Ms. Ritter established a consulting practice where she currently analyzes cases involving bloodshed for the purposes of crime scene reconstruction.

Registration Form

Name _____

Department/City or County _____

Title _____

(Example: SGT, Detective, Investigator, Coroner, Deputy Coroner)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

Registration Fee

Full Fee..... \$475.00

*Please Return Completed Form by Mail or Scan & Email to
icmeatraining@hotmail.com*

Mail Payment To:

Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiner Association

P.O. Box 528

Sullivan, IL 61951

Questions: Contact Dave Reed

Telephone: 217.433.0488

E-mail: coroner79@hotmail.com

***There will be two raffles conducted at the end of the day on Wednesday, to win your choice of the following: Glock Model 43 (9 mm) Semiautomatic handgun or Glock Model 43x (9 mm) Semiautomatic handgun or \$300.00 cash.**

Raffle #1 - Every paid registration will be entered into a drawing to win your choice of either the Glock Model 43 (9 mm), the Glock Model 43x (9 mm) or \$300.00 cash. Must be present to win.

Raffle #2 - Raffle tickets will be offered during the conference at \$5.00 per single ticket or \$25.00 for six tickets to be eligible to win the Glock Model 43 (9 mm), the Glock Model 43x (9 mm), or \$300.00 cash. Raffle will be held after raffle #1. You do not need to be present to win.

****Only sworn law enforcement officers are eligible to win firearms.
All others must take cash prize.***

Continuing Education Credits: 21 hours for Monday thru Wednesday will be allowed for Illinois coroners, sheriff's, coroner personnel and Ill. Lead Homicide Investigator Re-Certification Training. ABMDI hours are pending.

Welcome to the Conference

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce the upcoming presentation of the Thirty First Annual Medicolegal Death And Homicide Investigation Conference, to be held August 25 to August 27, 2025 in Collinville, Illinois.

For the law enforcement professional, medical examiner, coroner or anyone involved in the investigation of death from a legal, medical or scientific perspective, MDHIC 2025 promises to be the premier venue for the advanced training this year. A glance at the attendees will attest, participants of this annual gathering gain substantial new capabilities offered by the very best in our field. This conference has become a great place to learn, network and socialize with professionals from all across the country. We invite you to join us.

As always, we'll do everything we can do to make your attendance both comfortable and worthwhile. Thank you for your continued interest and participation.

David Reed, F-ABMDI
Chief Deputy Coroner
of Moultrie County
Course Coordinator

Conference Location & Lodging Information

Location: This conference will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Collinsville-St. Louis, 1000 East Port Plaza Drive, Collinsville, Illinois, conveniently located at I 55/70 at Ill 157 (exit 11) and just 30 minutes from Lambert International Airport.

Lodging: A block of rooms has been reserved at the DoubleTree by Hilton Collinsville- St. Louis. Reservation deadline for the special conference rate is July 25, 2025. The special conference rate will be \$105.00 plus tax (single or double occupancy). Reservations should be made by calling the hotel direct at 618.345.2800 and reference the Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiners Association group. DO NOT make your reservation through Expedia or any other booking company because you will not get this special rate.

