

Investigations Competency Supplement

Describe the role evidence plays in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

- Articulate the principles of evidence collection.
- Apply the rules of evidence.
- Describe the various types of physical evidence.

Apply the steps for processing crime scenes.

- Explain the steps within the RESPOND model as relating to a criminal investigation.
- Demonstrate management of a crime scene in a simulated environment.

Apply appropriate strategies to locate, handle, and package evidentiary items.

- Explain the collection and preservation process of evidentiary items.
- Explain the chain of custody.
- Demonstrate a crime scene search during simulation.
- Demonstrate handling and packaging evidentiary items.

Document the crime scene.

- Explain the different processes to document (videotape, photos, sketches, diagrams, report, etc).
- Prepare a written police report of observations and actions during a simulated crime scene.

Recognize the unique investigative issues for crimes against life.

- Describe the factors required to determine whether a crime was committed (where is victim, is death accidental, natural causes, or intentional).
- Describe the unique physical evidence in crimes against life (victim as physical evidence, method, means, manner).
- Describe the appropriate procedures for death investigation (the roles of law enforcement, coroner, scene management and release, autopsy, death notification).

Apply appropriate strategies to secure the scene, collect and preserve evidence, and investigate a death.

- Conduct an investigation of a simulated death scene to determine whether a crime was committed.
- Properly identify, collect, and preserve evidence from a simulated crime scene involving a death.

Recognize the dynamics of victimization.

- Define victimization.
- Explain the various reactions and injuries from victimization.
- Explain an officer's initial response in contacting crime victims.
- Assess the medical and safety needs.
- Demonstrate a professional response when assisting crime victims (professional communication, conflict resolution, crisis intervention, empathy, respect, dignity).

Apply knowledge of the definitions and responsibilities for law enforcement under Chap 950, Wis. Stats.

- Explain rights of victims and witnesses of crime.
- Identify process and remedies for violation of victim rights.
- Demonstrate appropriate law enforcement response in simulated exercise.

Apply appropriate interview techniques with adult or child victims.

- Identify issues of victimization as applicable to the interview.
- Demonstrate ability to interview a variety of victims in simulated exercise (Alzheimer, children, developmentally challenged, different ethnicity than officer).

Analyze the role of law enforcement in responding to domestic abuse.

- Define domestic abuse and the elements requiring arrest (Wis. Stat. §968.075).
- Explain the unique offender/victim relationship in domestic violence situations. (Include information on elder abuse, implications for child abuse, and same sex relationships.)
- Describe the power differential and its effect on the offender/victim relationship. (Include information on police officer domestic abuse and on recantation.)

Intervene and apply appropriate investigative strategies.

- Manage family crisis.
- Contact and interview everyone present.
- Articulate mandatory arrest.
- Define predominant aggressor. (Include information on strangulation and self-defense.)
- Explain procedures and notification from a domestic violence arrest (72-hour no contact, restraining orders, no contact order, full faith and credit).
- Assess risk for victim.
- Identify related crimes (harassment, stalking).
- Identify multidisciplinary resources available to assist law enforcement (e.g. advocates, trauma response, etc.)

Analyze the role of law enforcement in responding to sexual abuse.

- Define sexual abuse and the elements requiring arrest (Wis. Stat. §940.225).
- Describe unique dynamics of sensitive crime victimization. (Include date rape and statutory rape situations, other victim/offender relationships.)

Demonstrate investigative techniques in a simulated sexual assault case.

- Identify the unique obstacles to interviewing a sexual assault victim (includes victimization issues as well as rape drugs or AODA issues).
- Demonstrate appropriate interviewing techniques for sexual assault victims.
- Identify what physical evidence should be collected and what limitations exist on physical evidence collection.
- Explain the implementation of the forensic medical exam and the proper use of the sexual assault evidence kit (for victims and suspects).
- Describe importance of corroborative statements.

Identify other resources that can assist in sexual assault cases (e.g., Probation and Parole, Registered Sex Offender database, Behavioral Unit FBI, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) nurses, Rape Crisis centers)