



## **Colorado Coroners Association Certification Policy *Certified Death Investigator***

In order to become Certified by the Colorado Coroners Association (CCA) as a Death Investigator, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

- You must be a Coroner or Deputy Coroner Investigator
- You must be currently employed by a Colorado Coroner's office
- The Coroner's Office you work for must be a current member of the CCA
- You must possess a high school diploma or GED. College transcripts and/or diploma may be substituted for high school diploma or GED.
- You must have completed the requirements on the CCA Certification Form as follows:
  - ✓ Attendance at a Colorado Coroners Association conference/seminar or a national conference/seminar on Death Investigation.
  - ✓ Have investigated ten (10) deaths and attended five (5) autopsies. The death investigations must be confirmed by a CCA Certified Death Investigator. At least three (3) of the autopsies must be performed and confirmed by a Board-Certified Forensic Pathologist. Two (2) autopsies may be signed and confirmed by a hospital Pathologist, and must be natural deaths. Dr. Michael Burson is an acceptable Pathologist by statute.
  - ✓ All work and credits to be considered for certification have been completed within the last forty-eight (48) months (4 years) and signed-off at the time of the action. Signatures that are gathered retroactively will not be accepted.
  - ✓ Read, understand and sign the Colorado Coroners Code of Ethics

Re-certification is required every four (4) years and requires sixty-four (64) hours of approved continuing education, which has been earned AFTER the previous certification date. Proof of continuing education hours must be submitted to the CCA three (3) months prior to the expiration of your current certification. A one (1) year grace period will be allowed. The Colorado Coroners Code of Ethics must be read, understood and signed with each re-certification packet. It is the

applicant's responsibility to maintain hard-copy records of all previous certification, training, published articles, teaching/presentation and leadership activities, as well as all documentation for continuing education hours and activities.

Approved continuing education activities include courses accredited by: CCA, ABMDI, American Medical Association, American Nursing Association, American Bar Association, Peace Officer Standards Training (or equivalent) and post-secondary institutions recognized by national educational accrediting agencies (accredited college or university). Classes must relate to the area of Death Investigations (or a closely related subject). If you have any questions about whether the class will be accepted or not, please check with the CCA Board or the Certification chair-person. All requirements are subject to change or alteration upon consideration and voting of the Colorado Coroners Association Executive Board. The CCA will review applications and grant certification on a quarterly basis.