

**DISTRICT 8 FUNERAL DIRECTORS /  
CORONER'S COLLABORATION**



Hosted by the Peoria County Coroner's Office

June 12-13, 2026

2116 N Sheridan Rd, Peoria, IL 61604

Community Room

## ABMDI COURSE ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

The ABMDI uses the following guidelines when evaluating proposed training for continuing education. The guidelines shall be updated as necessary and approved by the Board at their meeting(s).

All programs must be reviewed by the ABMDI using the attached Request for Course Accreditation Form in order to be considered for approval.

- a. Requests, along with all required documentation, must be submitted at least 60 days prior to the program date, to allow time for review and notification.
  - b. All courses must be approved **prior** to the start of instruction.
  - c. The ABMDI will review the materials submitted with the Request for Course Accreditation Form to evaluate content and determine whether the course meets ABMDI standards for accreditation. Review will not start until all required documentation is received.
2. Hours must apply specifically toward a task specified on the Fundamental Tasks of Medicolegal Death Investigation.
- a. A schedule with times of actual hours of instruction must be submitted.
    - Credit will not be granted for registration, breaks, lunches, certificate distribution, travel time, Q&A sessions, outside reading or activities, or lectures not relevant to the field of medicolegal death investigation.
  - b. Credits are granted in 15-minute increments, which is equivalent to 0.25 hours.
3. A course accreditation number will be issued for approved courses.
- a. Accreditation numbers may be valid for up to one year.
4. There will be a \$100 fee for course accreditations.

## Conference Agenda

### Day 1

12:00–12:15 — Check In

12:15 — Welcome

12:20 — Overview of IACME Accreditation

1 HR  
CE

- Explain the purpose and value of IACME accreditation
- Identify core standards and accreditation requirements
- Describe the accreditation process and pathway
- Demonstrate operational improvements gained through accreditation

13:20 — Current Legislative Issues

1 HR  
CE

- Explain current legislative and regulatory issues impacting death investigation (e.g., Medical Aid in Dying Act and related policies)
- Identify how proposed or enacted laws affect coroner and medical examiner operations
- Describe the role of ICMEA in advocacy and legislative monitoring
- Demonstrate how death investigation professionals can engage in informed advocacy and policy awareness

14:20 — Heinz Funeral Home Investigation & Investigative Insight's (Jim Allmon, MA, F-ABMDI, Sangamon County Coroner)

1 HR  
CE

- Explain the background and key facts of the Heinz Funeral Home investigation
- Identify investigative challenges and lessons learned from the case
- Describe best practices for detecting and documenting similar misconduct
- Demonstrate how investigative insights from this case can be applied to future death investigations

15:20—Break

15:30— Current Pathology & Toxicology Trend's (Dr. Amanda Youmans, D.O.)

1 HR  
CE

- Explain emerging pathology and toxicology trends impacting death investigation
- Identify nitazenes and other novel substances of concern and their effects
- Demonstrate how trend awareness informs scene investigation, autopsy, and case conclusions

16:45—Conclusion

## Day 2

Check-in-- 08:00-08:30am

8:30am-10:15am-- Photography Course- with Paul Tuttle

**1.25  
HR  
CE**

Officer Tuttle will demonstrate techniques and scales used to properly document photos from a crime scene

- The officer will describe the role of lighting and angles in evidence collection
- The officer will discuss common mistakes investigators make when photographing evidence and show examples of how to properly adjust evidence photos

10:15-10:30am—Break

10:30-11:30-- Technology Used in Investigations with Detective Vasquez

**2 HR  
CE**

- Detective will describe the use of forensic databases to identify victims and suspects

Detective Vasquez will emphasize the importance of accurate data collection in death investigations

Detective Vasquez will discuss how digital tools assist in determining the cause and manner of death

11:30-12:00pm—Lunch

12:00-14:15pm-- State Police Investigations and Officer Involved Shootings with Master Sgt. Osborne

**2.25 HR  
CE**

- Sgt. Osborne will identify the role of state police in investigating officer-involved shootings.
- Describe the legal standards and policies that guide these investigations
- Explain procedures followed during an officer-involved shooting investigation.

14:15-15:30-- Practical Lab with Coroner Jamie Harwood

**1 HR  
CE**

- TBD

16:30—Conclusion & Evaluations

## **Course Descriptions:**

### **IACME Accreditation Overview**

This course provides an in depth overview of the IACME accreditation program and its role in advancing professional standards within medicolegal death investigation. Participants will learn why accreditation matters, what core standards must be met, and how the accreditation process is structured from application through ongoing compliance. The session will highlight how accreditation supports consistent practices, strengthens organizational accountability, and improves the overall quality and defensibility of death investigations. Practical examples will demonstrate how accredited offices operate and the tangible benefits accreditation brings to daily casework. Pending approval for ABMDI and Lead Homicide Detective continuing education 1 hour.

### **ICMEA Lobbyist Current Political Issues Affecting Death Investigation**

This course examines current legislative and regulatory issues that directly impact coroner and medical examiner offices, including topics such as the Medical Aid in Dying Act and other emerging policy considerations. Attendees will gain an understanding of how proposed and enacted laws influence investigative authority, procedures, and reporting requirements. The session will also explain the advocacy role of ICMEA and how it monitors and responds to legislation. Participants will leave better equipped to stay informed, understand policy changes, and recognize how political developments affect their professional responsibilities. Pending approval for ABMDI and Lead Homicide Detective continuing education 1 hour.

### **Investigative Insights from the Heinz Funeral Home Scandal (Jim Allmon)**

This course explores the investigation into the Heinz Funeral Home scandal, focusing on how the case was identified, developed, and resolved. Participants will review key facts, investigative strategies, and challenges encountered during the inquiry. The speaker will share practical lessons learned and red flags that may indicate similar misconduct in other jurisdictions. Emphasis will be placed on applying these investigative insights to strengthen oversight, improve documentation, and enhance the detection of unethical or illegal practices involving death care services. Pending approval for ABMDI and Lead Homicide Detective continuing education 1.25 hours.

### **Current Pathology and Toxicology Trends Nitazenes and Emerging Substances (Dr. Amanda Youmans D.O.)**

This course addresses evolving pathology and toxicology trends affecting modern death investigations, with a focus on nitazenes and other novel psychoactive substances. Participants will learn about the pharmacology, clinical effects, and postmortem findings associated with these emerging drugs. The session will discuss challenges related to detection, interpretation of results, and accurate cause and manner of death determination. Attendees will gain practical knowledge to better integrate toxicology and pathology findings into comprehensive, defensible case conclusions. Pending approval for ABMDI and Lead Homicide Detective continuing education 1 hour.

### **Photography in Death and Crime Scene Investigation (Paul Tuttle)**

This course provides practical instruction on the use of photography as a critical documentation tool in death and crime scene investigations. Officer Tuttle will demonstrate proper techniques and the use of measurement scales to accurately capture evidence and scene conditions. The session will explain the importance of lighting, camera positioning, and angles in producing clear and court defensible photographs. Common mistakes made by investigators when photographing evidence will be reviewed, along with examples showing how to correct and improve photographic documentation.

Pending approval for ABMDI and Lead Homicide Detective continuing education 2 hours.

#### **Technology Used in Investigations (Detective Vasquez)**

This course explores the role of modern technology in supporting death investigations and criminal casework. Detective Vasquez will describe how forensic databases are used to assist with identifying victims and suspects and how digital systems support information sharing across agencies. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of accurate and complete data entry to ensure reliable investigative outcomes. The session will also discuss how digital tools contribute to determining cause and manner of death and strengthening overall case integrity. Pending approval for ABMDI and Lead Homicide Detective continuing education 1 hour.

#### **State Police Investigations and Officer Involved Shootings (Master Sgt. Osborne)**

This course provides an overview of how the state police conduct investigations involving officer involved shootings and other critical incidents. Master Sgt. Osborne will discuss investigative authority, scene management, and coordination with local agencies. The session will examine key steps in evidence collection, witness interviews, and documentation specific to these high risk events. Participants will gain a better understanding of the process, transparency considerations, and how these investigations differ from routine cases. Pending approval for ABMDI and Lead Homicide Detective continuing education 2 hours.

#### **Practical Lab Case Review and Knowledge Application (Jamie Harwood Peoria County Coroner)**

This interactive course allows participants to apply concepts learned throughout the day in a practical lab setting. Jamie Harwood will lead case based activities such as a Jeopardy style review and scenario discussions focused on death investigation principles. The session reinforces critical thinking, teamwork, and problem solving skills. Participants will leave with a stronger understanding of how to integrate investigative, pathology, and documentation concepts into real world casework. Pending approval for ABMDI and Lead Homicide Detective continuing education 1 hour.