

Deadline of Submission of 17-Jun-24

Comments: Document Number: ANSI/ASB BPR 193

Document Title: Best Practice Recommendations for Determining What Scene and Death Locations a Medicolegal Death Investigation Authority Responds to for an Investigation

Comment #	Text Line # (s)	Document Section	Type of Comment	Current Document Wording	Proposed Revision	Revision Justification	Final Resolution
			E-Editorial T-Technical				
1		Whole document	E		<p>In these situations, we would ask that the BPR require them to put in place strategies that can minimize the effects of bias:</p> <p>1) Disclose the information they used in their report of their findings and any associated testimony (could include a list of boxes to check for ease.</p> <p>2) Ideally, aim for a stepwise/sequential unmasking approach to getting and evaluating information and documenting decision/thoughts after each exposure (see Dror & Kukucka, 2021: https://doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.fsisyn.2021.100161; and Quigley-McBride et al. (2022): https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsisyn.2022.100216 for detailed guidance on how to do this in practice), culminating in a final conclusion.</p>	<p>Given the potential for bias in many of the situations MDIs might find themselves in, through no fault of their own, there should be some mitigation strategies in place that can manage this biasing potential when exposure to theories about what happened cannot be prevented/if MDIs must implicitly or explicitly know that there was an unnatural death/homicide or the way in which that homicide occurred (e.g., they may miss something important that they wouldn't know to look for without contextual information).</p>	<p>Reject: The requested revision is out of scope for this document. The scope of this document specifically states that "Details on how to conduct scene investigations are not addressed in this document."</p>
2				Ballot Comment	<p>A couple terms are out of alphabetical order: 3.1 should be switched with 3.2; 3.6 should be switched with 3.7.</p>		<p>Accept.</p>
3		4.3.2.5	E		<p>We suggest that the standard should broaden the situations in which they will be called, both to avoid bias and to avoid missing unnatural deaths for which MDI expertise could be useful. This could involve changing language to: "based on the suspicion that the death was sudden and unexpected, and not the end result of a disease process (i.e., natural), given the nature of the death and circumstances in which it occurred." or similar.</p>	<p>The language "The recommendations in 4.3.2.1 through 4.3.2.4 would include anytime investigating agencies express a concern that the death might have been related to homicidal violence." suggests that MDIs are only called to investigate only when there is already a suspicion that a death was unnatural/caused by another person – at a crime scene or at the ER. This could result in implicit or explicit bias effects to make conclusions consistent with that manner/cause of death.</p>	<p>Reject with modification: The requested revision is out of scope for this document, but the following change was made: "In addition to the recommendations in 4.3.2.1 through 4.3.2.4, response should include anytime investigating agencies express a concern that the death might have been related to homicidal violence."</p>