



D14 Forensic Nursing Science in Sweden

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to understand some of the development of forensic nursing death investigation and the forensic nurse's impact of the death investigation in Sweden. The attendees will be able to identify how the nursing science is applied in the area of forensic medicine in Sweden. This presentation will bring understanding and knowledge to the attendees about the movement and development of forensic nursing globally. The presentation will focus on the system of death investigation in Sweden and how the nurses have worked their way into the system during the five years that nurses have worked in the field and also how the discipline of forensic nursing science is developing in Sweden.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by providing understanding of the Development of Forensic Nursing Globally.

The Forensic Nurse Death Investigators impact on the medicolegal death investigation - Nurses have not been involved in medicolegal death investigations before the year 2000 in Sweden. There are five fulltime forensic nurse death investigators (FNDI) in Sweden in 2006.

In Sweden, there are approximately 5500 medicolegal death investigations conducted every year and the five FNDI are involved in 35% of the cases. The role of the FNDI in the medicolegal death investigation is the most prevalent connection with the next of kin during the whole process and investigating the medico-psycho-social aspects of the dead person.

The FNDI contributes to the medicolegal death investigation by conducting a psychosocial autopsy of cases in which the forensic pathologist is requiring more information to determent the manner of death. The psychosocial autopsy is based on facts that are revealed from talking to next of kin, reading hospital records, and following up every small detail about the dead person that could bring more information to the case.

The need for Forensic Nurse Death Investigators in the future - The national board of forensic medicine (NBFM) has requested an oversight of the system of death investigation from the Swedish government. In that request, the NBFM suggests that the FNDI would do a psychosocial autopsy of every case of sudden and unexpected death in Sweden. The FNDI then present the outcome of the psychosocial autopsy to the forensic pathologist in charge. Based on this information, the forensic pathologist in charge will decide whether there are enough clinical background to determent the cause of death or a forensic autopsy should be done.

If the system will be changed in the way that the NBFM is suggesting then 20 more FNDI will have to be employed.

The development of forensic nursing science in Sweden - Jonas Lindgren is the first doctoral student in Sweden within the area of forensic nursing. In his dissertation, he is studying the community network surrounding the next of kin that has lost a loved one in sudden unexpected death and what impact the FNDI have on the next of kin.

In autumn 2006 or spring 2007, the first 5 credit course in forensic nursing in Scandinavia will be held at the University of Gothenburg.

The awareness of forensic nursing science among Swedish nurses is growing every year and that is mostly because the FNDI is involved in the training and education of nurses and other professionals in the area.

Forensic Nursing, Globally, Death investigation