

CHILD DEATH/INJURY DOCUMENTATION GUIDE

These guidelines were developed for use in those cases in which there is a child death or injury. In addition to these items, please take note of any other information that may be relevant. **This is just a guide. FOLLOW LOCAL PROCEDURES AND MEDICAL DIRECTION.**

PRESERVE THE SCENE!
IS L.E.O. ON SCENE? IF NOT, CALL!
CONTACT THE CORONER!
PHOTOGRAPH THE SCENE!

<u>HOME OBSERVATIONS</u>	<u>CHILD OBSERVATIONS</u>
<p style="color: red;">☞ UNSANITARY CONDITIONS ☞ ALCOHOL OR DRUG USE</p> <p>Crib conditions Bedding Room temperature Outside temperature Odors/toxins Smoking Ventilation Heating Adequate food Medications in home Frequent calls to home by law enforcement, SRS, EMS, etc. (Check for SRS history) <u>PHOTOGRAPH THE HOME!</u></p>	<p style="color: red;">☞ BODY MOVED ☞ INJURIES/MARKS ☞ DISCOLORATION</p> <p>Appearance Cleanliness and type of clothing Clothing or diaper soiled Cleanliness of child Body position Face position Head and neck position Sweaty Temp: cold, cool, warm Rigor Sleeping place Bedding over or under baby Objects in bed <u>PHOTOGRAPH THE CHILD!</u></p>

Characteristics of SIDS		
	Consistent with SIDS	Red Flags
History of death	Healthy infant; fed; put to bed; silent death	Unclear history; prolonged interval between bedtime and discovery
Age at death	1-12 month range; 2-6 months of age most common	Greater than 12 months
Physical exam at death	Pink watery frothy fluid from nose/mouth; post mortem dependent lividity; no skin trauma; well cared for	Injuries; trauma; bruises; malnutrition; neglect; fractures
History of pregnancy	Cigarette use; premature or low birth weight; multiple births; illness requiring hospitalization	Unwanted pregnancy; no health checks; drug/alcohol use during pregnancy
Death scene	Crib in good condition; firm sleep surface; no dangers or toxins; good ventilation	Chaotic, unsanitary, crowded living conditions; drugs/alcohol; struggle in crib; blood-stained bedclothes; hostility by caretakers; discord; accusations
Previous deaths	First unexplained infant death	More than one unexplained infant death
Previous SRS or law enforcement involvement	None	Prior SRS reports/contacts; family members arrested for violent behavior