



Forensic Photography Policy

Policy# 14-0530-1 Forensic Photography Policy, Revised 03/16/2018 (2 Pages)

Purpose: To provide standards for photography at death scenes.

Justification: Photography is one of the necessary and best methods of documenting the death scene.

Policy:

1. The death scene will be documented with adequate photos prior to any alterations of the scene.
2. The death scene is the location of the body/s and any areas that may have contributed to the death or vital to the investigation.
3. Photos will be taken regardless of other agency/s taking photos.
4. A photo of the Photo Card identifying the Case#, Investigator, Decedent's Name and known Demographics will be taken once you photograph your way to the body and then once the body is sealed in the body bag.
5. Photos should be taken with office issued camera only. Do not use personal phone to take photos. Office issued phone may be used if necessary to the investigation to text/email photo from the scene.
6. Take full-body images (anterior, posterior, and lateral) with the patient's face visible and clearly identifiable. This photo may be necessary for visual positive identification.
7. Take medium-range photographs of each separate injury or defect, including cuts, bruises, swelling, lacerations, and abrasions. Work from one side to the other and then top to bottom, or design a workable method. Be consistent. Take "regional" shots to

show injuries or defects in the context and orientation of a body region; these photographs should include easily identifiable anatomical landmarks.

8. Take close-up images of all injuries and/or defects on the body, with and without a scale. When photographing a defect, show its relationship to another part of the body.
9. Be sure to take photo of the Numbered Tamper Evident Seal with the seal in place through the zippers of the body bag in addition to the ID Tag and Photo Card identifying the body.
10. Pertinent photos should be shared with the forensic pathologist prior to the autopsy.
11. The photos will be transferred to the case folder and saved in their original format and retained as per the office's retention policy.
12. If any photo needs to be enhanced in any manner, that enhanced photo will be saved with documentation of such enhancements.
13. Sharing and releasing of any photos will follow this office policy on releasing of records which will not supersede the ORC 313.10 (Records to be Public).

This policy has been approved and is in effect until further notice:



John A. Gabis, M.D.
Office of the Coroner, Ross County, Ohio



Date