

## Body Examination

---

### Policy:

The scene investigator will perform a general, superficial external body examination with minimal disruption of the condition of the body.

The body will be photographed before it is disturbed from its found position.

The investigator will describe general appearance of the body (presence of injuries, scars, petechial hemorrhages, contusions, and discolorations) as well as deformities, masses and/or crepitus.

The investigator will also describe hygiene and grooming, as well as, clothing and its condition.

The investigator will assess the presence and degree of postmortem changes including but not limited to the following:

1. Rigor mortis, physically check the jaw, arms and trunk;
2. Livor mortis, check for the settling of blood in the most dependent areas of the body. Document (in report and photograph) presence or absence of livor mortis and if livor mortis blanches.
3. Obtain the body temperature by touching the body to determine if it is warm or cold to the touch. If there is inclement weather during the scene investigation, then the investigator will obtain a body temperature using an infrared laser thermometer.
4. Discoloration, marbling, bloating, blistering, skin slippage, mummification and desiccation of the toes and fingertips.
5. Artifacts of animal predation and insect activity.
6. Palpation of the head, neck, trunk, abdomen, pelvis, extremities, and backbone.
7. Lift up clothing to view body.
8. Check all pockets.
9. Photograph and document property found in the pockets, specifying which pockets property was found in.