



## 2026 Pennsylvania State Coroners Association Annual Convention Agenda

### Monday 9/21/26

0700-0800	Registration and Breakfast	1.00
0800-0830	OPENING CEREMONY	0.50
0840-1000	PSU PANEL	1.50
	<p>We are Penn State!! The PSU Emergency Preparedness panel will share information pertaining to the nuts and bolts of Beaver Stadium. Discussion in this session will include standards relating to emergency preparedness at a large venue (e.g. 300,000 fans at a home game) and how to plan for the potential mass casualty/mass fatality situations.</p>	
	<p><i>Brian Bitner-PSU EMA</i></p>	
1005-1130	JUVARE	1.50
	<p>Juvaré is a global leader in operational resilience and critical incident management, trusted by organizations across public, private, and healthcare sectors to navigate complexity, manage disruption, and maintain continuity every day and in moments of crisis. This presentation will provide an overview and capabilities of the patient management system and its functionality and implementation in mass fatality incidents.</p>	
	<p><i>Pamela Drake-Pennsylvania Health Management Corporation - Deputy Director</i></p>	
1130-1230	LUNCH	
1230-1330	PIO	1.00
	<p>Death investigations require continual and open communication with families as well as the public. This session will focus on best practices for the Public Information Officer in order to implement techniques to share information with the public and the media while protecting the privacy of the investigation and the family.</p>	



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	<i>Tpr. Jake Rhymestlin-PSP</i>	
1330-1430	CIT - VICTIM FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS	1.00
	<p>Incident deescalation is an everyday and every incident technique all medicolegal death investigator must implement. From grieving families on the day of the incident, followed by weeks and months of interactions with those victims of loss, face to face interactions with these citizens are consistent and guaranteed. This session will provide insight into the best deescalation techniques medicolegal death investigators can implement and valuable safety advice for constant situational awareness and vigilance.</p>	
	<i>Sgt Ryan Hendricks- Ferguson Township Police Department</i>	
1430-1800		3.50
	<i>Quincy</i>	
1800-1900	DINNER	1.00
1900-2300	Hospitality and Networking	4.00



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### Tuesday 09/22/26

0700-0800	Registration and Breakfast	1.00
0800-0830	DOH PANEL	1.00
	<p>Partnerships with the PA Department of Health are a valuable part of the medicolegal death investigator's role. This integral collaboration can lead to funding discussions, data sharing agreements and ultimately our shared goal of policy change and reform to reduce preventable deaths. These such programs and partnerships include Violent Death Reporting, Overdose Surveillance and Maternal Mortality Review.</p>	
	<i>Craig Costigan-DOH</i>	
0830-0930	OSHA	1.00
	<p>Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) duties include setting and enforcing workplace safety standards, conducting inspections, providing training, and promoting research. When a death occurs at a workplace OSHA has a responsibility to collaborate with the medicolegal death investigation team to understand what occurred and offer an evaluated to implement corrective or preventative actions to reduce or eliminate the possibility for reoccurrence. This session will discuss insights for those workplace death investigations</p>	
	<i>Richard Pietron -OSHA</i>	
0930-0945	BREAK	



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0945-1035	ENTOMOLOGY	1.00
	<p>Forensic entomology applies the biology of insects to legal and criminal investigations and provides evidence about events surrounding a death or crime scene. The field primarily focuses on insects that colonize decomposing remains, as their presence and developmental stages act as biological clocks to estimate the postmortem interval. Discussion in this session will include how the stages of maturation of bugs provide answers for forensic investigations.</p>	
	<i>Dr. Denise Gemmellaro-NAFEA</i>	
1040-1130	FORENSIC VETERINARY	1.00
	<p>Forensic veterinary medicine is a multidisciplinary field at the intersection of veterinary medicine, forensic science, and criminal justice. In this field experts utilize medical knowledge to investigate crimes involving animals. Animals in these investigations may serve as victims, perpetrators, or witnesses, and forensic veterinarians collect and analyze evidence. Discussion will also include case studies where assistance from a veterinarian provides information to rule of potential foul play which is an essential part of medicolegal death investigation.</p>	
	<i>Dr. Jason Brooks- ABMDI-PSU</i>	
1130-1230	LUNCH	1.00
1230-1330	VENDOR-DESSERTS & DRINKS	1.00
1330-1430	FBI - HUMAN TRAFFICKING-NEXT OF KIN	1.00
	<p>Unclaimed remains and identification of next of kin for decedents has become an increasing problem both in the Commonwealth of PA and Nationwide. Certain case types, such as human trafficking, make this essential role of the medicolegal death professional exceptionally difficult. FBI Agent Andrea Miles will share information and tools to assist medicolegal death investigations in locating next of kin for decedents as used in situations of human trafficking victims.</p>	
	<i>Andrea R. Miles-FBI</i>	



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1500-1630	EXECUTIVE BOARD	1.50
1630-1730	VENDOR-APPETIZERS & BEVERAGES	1.00
1800-1900	DINNER	1.00
1900-2300	Hospitality and Networking	4.00
	Total Education Hours	<b>11.50</b>



## 2026 Pennsylvania State Coroners Association Annual Convention Agenda

### Wednesday 09/23/26

0700-0800	Registration and Breakfast	1.00
0805-0845	OPENING CEREMONY 25TH & 250TH	0.75
0845-1145	<b>Education Board- PSCA Business Meeting-Elections</b>	2.50
1145-1215	VENDOR-BREAK	0.50
1215-1315	LUNCH	1.00
1330-1630	PERSONAL EFFECTS- 911	3.00
	<p>The events of 9/11 changed our world as a nation as well as altered our planning perspectives as medicolegal death investigators. Dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the Events of 9/11, this discussion with Author Robert A Jensen will include perspectives in his book "Personal Effects - What Recovering the Dead Teaches Me About Caring for the Living by Robert A. Jensen". These are tasks a medicolegal death investigator performs on a routine basis and the impacts vary greatly.</p>	
	<i>Robert Jensen-Author</i>	
1700-1800	VENDOR BREAK-Appetizers & Beverages	1.00
1830-1930	DINNER	1.00
1930-2230	MUSIC-Hospitality and Networking	3 & 1



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### Thursday 09/24/26

0700-0800	Registration and Breakfast	1.00
0800-0930	MERCYHURST - ODONTOLOGY	1.50
	<p>Forensic odontology is the application of dental science in legal contexts. Forensic odontologists assist medicolegal death investigations in a variety of ways including the examination and evaluation of dental evidence to assist in identifying human remains, supporting criminal investigations, and aiding in disaster victim identification.</p> <p>Dr. Joe Adserias-Garriga will provide insight into this integral part of a medicolegal death investigations as well as when to best utilize their services for complex investigations.</p>	
	<i>Dr. Joe Adserias-Garriga</i>	
0930-1700	VENDOR BREAK-SNACKS & DRINKS	7.00
0945-1100	FIRE AND EXPLOSION INVESTIGATION	1.25
	<p>Fire and Explosion Death scenes are often some of the more difficult cases to determine cause and mainly manner of death which is the charge of the Medicolegal Death Professional. Fire Investigation expert will share with medicolegal death investigators the process of fire investigation and how it intersects with and directly impacts the death investigation.</p>	
	<i>Donald Brucker - Fire Investigator and Chief Deputy Fire Marshal Allegheny County</i>	
1100-1215	INTERSECTION AND COLLABORATION: DEATH INVESTIGATOR AND FUNERAL DIRECTOR	1.25
	<p>Medicolegal Death Investigation professional intersects with our Funeral Director partners on a daily basis. Collaboratively these two groups need to align their efforts and work together on an almost daily basis in order to effectively process decedents as well as communicate with their families. Medicolegal death professionals' role directly affects the ability of the funeral directors to perform their duties as best as possible.</p>	
	Barbara Daughenbaugh, Licensed Funeral Director	
1215-1315	LUNCH	1.00
1315-1345	VENDOR-DESSERTS & DRINKS	0.50



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1345-1445	Firearms-SAFETY	1.00
	<p>Firearms have an increasing presence at death investigation scenes across the entire Commonwealth which means there is an ever-increasing potential for medicolegal death investigators to encounter those firearms. It is very common for medicolegal death investigators to handle or render safe firearms during scene investigations or found during decedent searches. Experts extensively trained in handling may not be readily available at all times. A basic awareness of firearms safety will be provided.</p>	
	<i>Rob Bromiley - Firearms Usage and Safety Expert/Active Trainer/NRA Certified</i>	
1445-1545	CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT	1.00
	<p>Medicolegal Death Investigation is often considered that every scene is a critical incident. Critical incident stress affects teams on a routine basis as varying degrees. In this session CISM will provide insight on the value and purpose of CISM teams and how to evaluate when to utilize those services.</p>	
	<i>Cathy Grimes-CISM</i>	
1615-1715	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	1.50
1730-1900	DINNER	1.50
1900-2200	Hospitality and Networking	3.00
	<b>Total Education Hours</b>	<b>13.00</b>