

Origin and development of medicolegal death investigation

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Origin and Development of Medicolegal Death Investigation Introduction

While deaths are natural, investigation in the nature of the deaths, provide fundamental details that help curb the causes of such deaths besides providing incriminating evidence that prove the unnatural nature of some of the deaths. The increase in crime and malice in the contemporary society thus expedited the development of medicolegal death investigation. Such investigations look for specific features of both the corpse and the scene of death thus determining the activities leading to the deaths. Through such investigations, prosecutors obtain fundamental evidence to prove the guilt of the suspects.

Medicolegal death investigation is a broad discipline that varies depending on the jurisdictions. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia among other Arabic states for example have unique medicolegal death investigation systems derived from the Islamic legislations owing to the adoption of sharia laws. In Europe and the United States among other countries with civil legislations, the investigation systems follow the constitutional jurisdictions with respect to the value of human life. This implies that while the investigators strive to find justice to the victims, they respect the value and rights of the suspect thus handling such investigations with the view of upholding the values.

Developments

Medicolegal death investigation is a prestigious course taught in different institutions of higher education including colleges and universities. The institutions hire professional forensic specialists who exhibit understanding of the industry and the nature of prevailing crimes in the society. Among the developments of the courses offered in numerous colleges and universities,

include the use of assisting laboratories such as forensic histopathology, microbiology, serology and forensic chemistry among many others. Each of the above developments introduces unique features into the practice with the view of developing individuals who exhibit unique skills required in each of the specializations. The primary objective of medicolegal death investigation is to determine the cause and the nature of deaths. The numerous ways of murdering an individual thus validate the widening of the practice thus the numerous developments. Some of the developments such as forensic chemistry investigate deaths arising from chemicals related accidents and murders (Rao, 2013).

Other related laboratories that expedite such investigations include DNA laboratories that help match the biological evidence. The efficacy of the evidence provided by medicolegal death investigators often rely on the results from the DNA laboratories that match up the blood samples among other parts of the body from the scene of crime thus determining the role of the people present at a crime scene. Additionally, the reliability of such evidence validates the jury's preference to medicolegal death investigation evidence instead of eyewitness accounts among many other sources of evidence. This explains the growth and expansion of the practice including its introduction in the different academic institutions.

In retrospect, medicolegal death investigation is a fundamental feature of the contemporary society that provides reliable evidence in murder and similar cases thus determining the causes of deaths with the view of either apprehending the murder suspects or discovering the cause of death thus devising a preventing mechanism to curb the prevalence of a strange

disease. Medicolegal death investigators are essential members of the society who play a role in the development of peaceful and orderly societies.

Reference

Rao, D. (2013). History of medicolegal systems. New York: Forensic laboratory.