

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**  
**INVESTIGATIVE CHECKLIST**

**AGGRAVATED FIRST DEGREE MURDER**

**RCW 9A.32.030 and 10.95.020**

**SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS**

- [ ] 1. Determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove that the suspect intentionally killed the victim, or intended to kill one person and killed a third person (transferred intent).
- [ ] 2. Determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove that the suspect intentionally killed the victim with premeditation (i.e., "thought over beforehand", as opposed to "merely" an "intentional" killing).
- [ ] 3. Determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove that the suspect intentionally killed the victim with premeditation and with the existence of one or more of the aggravating circumstances listed in 10.95.020(1)-(14) (e.g., officer victim, multiple victims, committed in the course of certain other serious crimes -- see the statute for details.)
- [ ] 4. If the suspect is an accomplice, determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove that the suspect knew his/her aid would facilitate the crime.
- [ ] 5. Determine and detail what evidence exists to disprove/prove that the killing was in self-defense/defense of others.
- [ ] 6. Determine and detail what evidence exists to disprove/prove that the killing was accidental.
- [ ] 7. Determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove the suspect's motive.
- [ ] 8. Determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove the prior relationship between the suspect and victim.
- [ ] 9. Determine and detail what evidence exists to disprove/prove the suspect's alibi -- and specifically interview possible alibi witnesses.
- [ ] 10. Determine and detail what evidence exists to disprove/prove victim's planned activities that day.
- [ ] 11. Determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove suspect's use of drugs/alcohol.
- [ ] 12. Determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove victim's use of drugs/alcohol.
- [ ] 13. Consider the need for forensic laboratory examination and testing, including DNA testing, blood pattern analysis, fingerprint comparison, tool mark comparison, gunshot distance and trajectory path determinations, gun operability tests, serial number restoration, forensic entomology, forensic anthropology, forensic odontology, etc.
- [ ] 14. In addition to the usual photographs (with a detailed photo log), consider special techniques such as videotaping the scene, aerial photography, etc.
- [ ] 15. Prepare detailed diagrams of the crime scene, with accurate measurements.

- [ ] 16. Obtain autopsy report. If one is not available, obtain as much information concerning cause of death as the medical examiner can provide.
  
- [ ] 17. If suspect may be suffering from a mental disease or defect, determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove that at the time the murder was committed, either the suspect's mind was affected by the mental disease or defect such that the suspect was unable to perceive the nature and quality of his/her actions, or that the mental disease or defect prevented the suspect from being able to appreciate that his/her actions were wrong.