

SNOHOMISH COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE INVESTIGATIVE CHECKLIST

HOMICIDE BY ABUSE

RCW 9A.32.055

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

- [] 1. Determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove that the suspect acted under circumstances manifesting an extreme indifference to human life.
- [] 2. Determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove that the suspect's acts were a proximate cause of the victim's death, i.e., a cause which, in direct sequence, unbroken by any new independent cause, produced the death, and without which the death would not have happened.
- [] 3. Obtain evidence to establish that the victim was under 16 years of age, a developmentally disabled person, or a dependent adult (a person who, because of physical or mental disability, or because of extreme advanced age, is dependent upon another person to provide the basic necessities of life.)
- [] 4. Determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove that the suspect had previously engaged in a pattern or practice of assault or torture of the victim.
- [] 5. 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.
- [] 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. In addition to the usual medical reports, obtain all of the victim's medical reports, so that one has the victim's complete medical history.
- [] 11. Obtain CPS/APS history, if any.
- [] 12. Determine and detail what evidence exists to prove/disprove any child hearsay statements by the victim, describing physical abuse which resulted in substantial bodily harm.
- [] 13. Consider obtaining an expert medical opinion regarding the cause and pattern of injury/abuse.
- [] 14. 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, etc.

- []15. In addition to the usual photographs (with a detailed photo log), consider videotaping the scene, aerial photography, etc.
- []16 Prepare detailed diagrams of the crime scene, with accurate measurements -- consider "total station" diagrams, etc.
- []17. Obtain autopsy report, including toxicology report.
- [] 18. 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.