



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING INSTRUCTION

UNEXPLAINED INFANT DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

ISSUED: March 2, 2021

EFFECTIVE: March 2, 2021

REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:

Inspector Paul Formolo

DATE: February 8, 2021

ACTION: Amends SOI (December 21, 2016)

WILEAG STANDARD(S): NONE

ROLL CALL VERSION

Contains only changes to current version.

For complete SOI, see SharePoint.

III. CHILD DEATH INVESTIGATION TEAM (CDIT)

~~The purpose of the CDIT is to provide cooperation and coordination amongst the listed agencies to ensure a complete and efficient investigation relating to an unexplained infant death where a high degree of gross negligence may have played a contributing role.~~

~~The CDIT team will consist of at least one member from the following agencies:~~

- ~~1. Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office **REDACTED**~~
- ~~2. Division of Milwaukee Child Protection Services (DMCPS) **REDACTED**~~
- ~~3. Medical Examiner Office **REDACTED**~~
- ~~4. Milwaukee Health Department **REDACTED**~~
- ~~5. Investigations Division Assigned Supervisor~~

~~**Note: While the above agencies may not necessarily respond to the incident, notifications shall be made to each of the above as directed in section IV (A) of this standard operating instruction.**~~

III IV. INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Upon notification of an unexplained infant death where gross neglect is suspected as a contributing factor, ~~an~~ the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) shift commander ~~Investigations division supervisor shall cause all agencies on the CDIT response notification list to be notified and~~ assign a lieutenant supervisor from the appropriate Investigations Division CIB to supervise the scene of the investigation.
- B. The scene of an unexplained infant death shall be investigated as a potential crime scene.
- C. The CIB shift commander may notify the following agencies of an unexplained infant

death where gross neglect is suspected as a contributing factor depending on the circumstances of the investigation:

1. Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office **REDACTED**
2. Division of Milwaukee Child Protection Services **REDACTED**
3. Medical Examiner Office **REDACTED**
4. Milwaukee Health Department **REDACTED**

DB. The ~~Investigations Division lieutenant~~ CIB supervisor assigned to supervise the scene shall be responsible for the overall scene investigation and shall:

1. Ensure that all principal parties and witnesses are separated prior to being interviewed by ~~Investigations Division~~ CIB detectives.
2. ~~Act as a liaison between the department and the CDIT.~~
23. Ensure that the scene investigation is complete and that all evidence is properly obtained and collected.
34. Ensure all required reports are filed.
45. When warranted, ensure the unexplained infant death investigation is reviewed in the district attorney's office.
56. Ensure a formal referral is made to the DMCPD, regardless if they respond to the scene. The Sensitive Crimes Division can be contacted and assist with conducting the referral. The supervisor shall also ensure that all involved parties are checked to determine if there are any prior or pending referrals with DMCPD.
67. Whenever it is determined that the living conditions are not suitable or safe for children, or for any reason the children present will not have proper and adequate supervision, the scene supervisor shall consult with DMCPD to determine if the children should be taken into protective custody or otherwise placed.

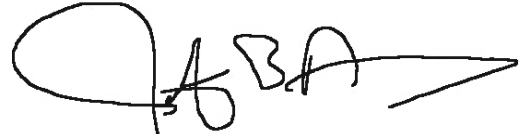
IV V. DETECTIVE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

A detective assigned to investigate an unexplained infant death shall immediately respond to the scene unless otherwise directed by ~~an Investigations Division~~ a CIB supervisor. A detective will be assigned a specific function by the on scene ~~Investigations Division lieutenant~~ CIB supervisor. Although not exhaustive, the following functions should be accomplished:

1. Continuous collaboration with ~~the CDIT~~ any outside agencies listed in section III (C) assisting with the investigation.
13. If it has been determined that alcohol and/or drugs were used by any person sleeping

with the child, [REDACTED] and the CDIT onscene supervisor should be consulted [REDACTED]

Note: When an unexplained infant death investigation warrants review in the district attorney's office for potential prosecution, there shall not be a summary arrest absent extraordinary circumstances. All relevant parties shall be ordered into the district attorney's office. ~~The CDIT should be consulted for guidance should questions arise.~~

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.B.N.' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JEFFREY B. NORMAN
ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

JBN:mfk