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The Science Of Forensic Investigation

By Carl Walker

The science of forensic investigation has been around for hundreds of years. In the past hundred

years however, Forensic investigation has developed and the progress that has been made is astounding. The art of forensic investigation is used every day on crime scenes throughout the world. A forensic investigation refers to the investigation of a crime scene. A crime scene investigator reconstructs the crime scene, analyzing evidence and carefully documenting each one of their findings. If only one piece of evidence is documented incorrectly, it could put the whole criminal case in jeopardy, potentially setting a criminal free to run the streets.

Crime scene investigators are specially trained members of the police force. They are the first people on a crime scene, and only they can release any property or information once the investigation is completed. There are different types of forensics that fall into the category of forensic investigation. The most simple of type of forensics is fingerprint. This is when a crime scene investigator gathers finger print evidence from a crime scene and analyzes it to get a finger print match.

Perhaps the most recognized form of forensic investigation is DNA testing. This testing is done by testing physical evidence such as secretions or blood from a crime scene and testing it to determine if it belongs to the victim. It doesn't, the sample will reveal certain genetic markers including the blood type of the unknown person. In cases such as assault, robbery, rape and murder, an experienced crime scene investigator is critical. They are trained in what to look for and how to test the evidence. Even the smallest piece of dust or a single hair can yield a wealth of information to a trained investigator. A single hair found at a crime scene can literally tell the investigator if they are looking for a male or female, or if the hair belongs to an animal.

A trained forensic investigator can take a half eaten apple and use the bite marks as identification, sort of like finger prints, thus catching a criminal who thinks that he or that they got away with a criminal act. A forensic investigator not only investigates murder scenes, their services are also used to detect forgeries by handwriting analysis, and testing water for purity.

Performing a forensic investigation is a long and complicated process. Every inch of a crime scene needs to be processed, starting with collecting finger print evidence from every inch of the crime scene.

Once the finger printing is done, the more tedious task of collecting every bit of dirt, dust, paper, clothes, fluid samples and everything else that is on the scene. Often, it takes weeks to process an entire crime scene.

<http://forensicshq.com/>

Forensics HQ investigates the world of forensics and crime scene investigation.

Forensic Nursing, The New Breed Of Nurses

By Larry Ford

With the continuing rise in crime rates, forensic nursing is quickly becoming a popular part of the American judicial system. Forensic nursing is one of the newest forms of forensic sciences recognized by the American Nurses Association. The new field combines the health care profession with the judicial system.

Nurses trained in forensic nursing are needed to quickly and appropriately gather evidence that can be used in a court of law. Along with gathering forensic information, they also testify in trials of their jurisdictions.

The appeal of forensic nursing is mainly with victims of violence. Multiple people are seeing victims, social workers, doctors, the police etc. This can be hard on the victim. Having one expert that can do everything from start to finish including going to trial would make it a lot less stressful for the victim.

Because forensic nursing is such a new and growing specialty, it offers great opportunities for recent nursing graduates and experienced RN's looking for a career change.

In 1992, approximately seventy nurses gathered together in Minneapolis, Minnesota as the first national convention for sexual assault nurses. This convention led to the founding of the IAFN, the International Association of Forensic Nurses.

Their mission statement was the concept of nurses willing to devote their energy and resources to develop a role in nursing that can have a impact on the future of forensic science and the health care industry.

Forensic nurses practice in many diverse fields. They range from nurses who specialize in domestic violence, emergency trauma, and sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE's), with SANE's are often the entry point into forensic nursing. Forensic nurses may also serve as legal nurse consultants or attorneys.

The education for forensic nursing vary. Degree programs are available in forensic nursing but are not required for entry into the profession. Certification courses required for the SANE program is a good start.

The employers of forensic nursing specialists vary as well. They include acute healthcare facilities, correctional institutions, county prosecutors, coroner's offices, medical examiner's offices, insurance companies, and psychiatric facilities.

Another opportunity is working independently on a per job basis to all of these employers – starting a forensic nursing business.

The industry of forensic nursing is only getting more and more attractive to nurses that really want to make a difference in the community around them. It's an opportunity for them to help victims of violence and helping the perpetrators of violence to get help.

Larry Ford runs a website providing information for forensic nursing. You can find it at

<http://www.forensicnursingzone.com/>



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