

HOMICIDE IN INDIAN COUNTRY

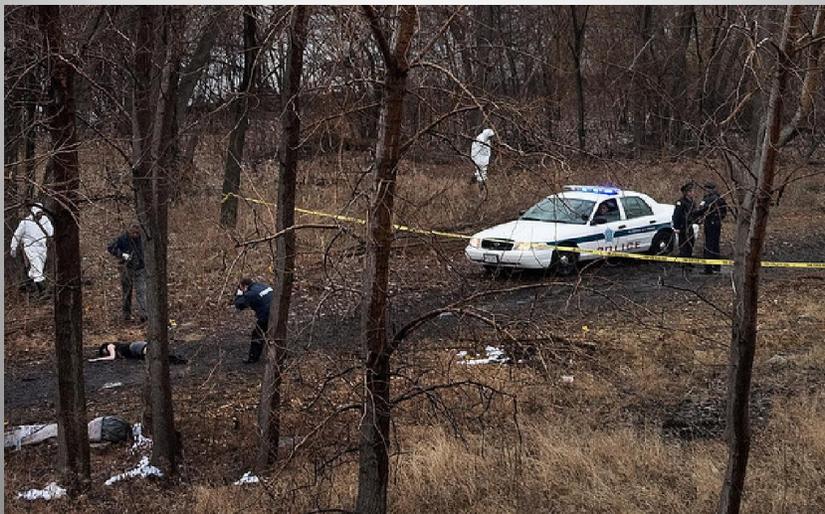
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This Pre-conference Institute is presented by Unified Solutions Tribal Community Development Group, Inc., under Grant No. 2009-MU-GX-K012 AND 2006-awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this document are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice



In order to develop cultural responses to violent death in Indian Country we must not only understand the American Indian and Alaska Native cultures but also understand that each tribal community is different. Native communities are very distinct from one another, yet they share a common relationship with the local, state and federal government as they navigate a modern world of cultural diversity.



CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS AT CRIME SCENES



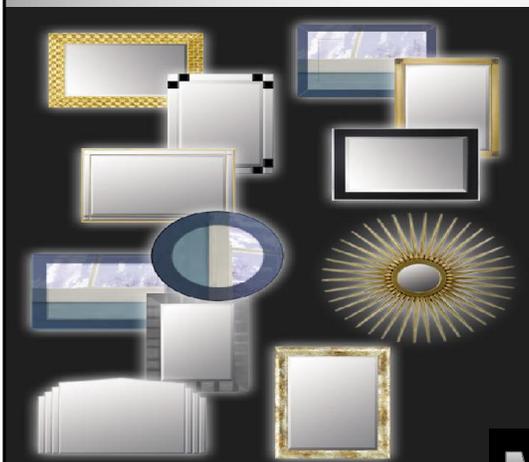
- *TOUCHING –VIEWING THE BODY**
- *EVIDENCE COLLECTION**
- *CULTURAL ACTIVITES AND CEREMONIES AT THE
CRIME SCENE**
- *RURAL AREAS, SCANNER LAND**
- *FAMILIES/FRIENDS AT CRIME SCENES**
- *WORKING THE CRIME SCENE WITH CULTURAL
RESPECT**

EXAMPLES

1. Reflective Surfaces
2. How the body is treated.
3. Personal belongings or clothing of deceased.



MIRRORS



Mirrored Sun Glasses

CHALLENGES FOR ADVOCATES

Advocates at Crime Scenes-
benefits to law enforcement and
victim survivors



Autopsy Issues-cultural
considerations officers or
advocates might offer to be
present on behalf of family.





When a death is investigated as a criminal act, the standard progression of sequential cultural and spiritual events in Native communities is delayed by the necessity of an autopsy which is viewed as a post-mortem invasion of a loved one's body and certain traditional beliefs are that when a person's body is marked and mutilated by an autopsy, that is how the deceased enters the Spirit World.

BURIAL DELAYS

Many tribal cultures have a certain time frame between death and burial and also have spiritual beliefs about the body of the deceased.





**THE CSI
EFFECT:
Unrealistic
expectations of
survivors**

1. DNA Results
2. Fingerprints
3. Solving Crime Quickly



Death Notifications

1. How delivered
2. Where delivered
3. When delivered
4. Who delivers notification-ministers, traditional, cultural healers; law enforcement-tribal/non-tribal
5. Advocates
6. Impact

***Use compassion and sensitivity in delivering death notifications**

***Be prepared with accurate information such as time of death, cause of death, but use caution in compromising investigation**

***Avoid delivering death notifications by phone if at all possible. When delivering in person, don't leave the survivor alone.**

***Delivering this life altering news in the most compassionate manner has a tremendous impact on how survivors move on and done insensitively can delay the cultural healing process**



TEARS

Tears are the silent language of grief. ~Voltaire, *A Philosophical Dictionary*



ANGEL OF GRIEF

PEACE TO SURVIVORS

COMPASSION

RESPECT

**CULTURALLY
APPROPRIATE**

Questions?

Thank you