



Forensic Investigators
of Colorado, LLC
Personal Injury, Negligence & Death

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September 2008 Newsletter

Please distribute per your office protocol

- Important Dates
- Community Outreach – Education in Trauma and Death due to Alcohol and other Drugs
- Monthly Focus – Estimating Assignment Costs
- FAQs – Consulting Experts

IMPORTANT DATES

OCT – 13th-19th (closed – Columbus Day and Vacation)
21st & 22nd (Denver – Advanced Linguistics Statement Analysis) CANCELED
NOV – 11th (closed – Veterans Day)
27th & 28th – (closed – Thanksgiving Holiday)

EDUCATION IN TRAUMA AND DEATH DUE TO ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Giving back to our community is very important to us. We do this in two ways: 1) by offering matching discounted fees for cases that you are reducing your fees; and 2) by reaching out to educate all age groups on the tragic results of abusing alcohol and other drugs.

Among the many things learned at the Medical Examiner's office – death does not discriminate. There are numerous means by which people will hurt or kill themselves and each other - either by intent or accident, and often alcohol and other drugs have played a role. What is really troubling is the degree that alcohol and other drugs are abused by all ages, sex, religions, races and socioeconomic status. Like death, substance abuse does not discriminate. At the Medical Examiner's office we would reach out to the community and schools to educate them and I am continuing that effort in the private sector for Larimer County.

Beginning in October, we will be available to visit any school, business or organization and speak to that group. Please spread the word and contact us for scheduling arrangements and specific information about this community outreach program. There are no associated fees or costs.

ESTIMATING INVESTIGATIVE COSTS

Our fees are divided into two main areas – investigative (\$80 per hour) and administrative (\$40 per hour). If the task is not investigative in nature (i.e. travel, reports, etc.) billing is at the administrative rate. We do charge 1.5x the applicable rate for assignments requested on weekends, holidays and non-routine investigative hours (our routine investigative hours are 7am to 7pm Monday through Friday). Actual expenses for records (i.e. law enforcement reports) are billed as charged. Routine expenses (toll calls, photocopies, faxing, etc.) are not itemized and are billed as a small percentage of the investigative and administrative sub-total. Mileage is charged at the prevailing IRS rate.

Due to the changing needs and complexity of cases, it is best to breakdown tasks and associated fees into assignment, or segments of cases, versus the entire case itself. On average, for every four hours of investigative time there is one hour of administrative time. The resulting average actual billable time is about \$70 per hour. The minimum charge, including up to the first two hours, is \$200. There is no charge for case consultation or review. As with litigation, estimating costs is difficult and is based only on previous experience. For example, witness interviews, without travel, are estimated at one-half hour per person. Incident photography is estimated at one to two hours, depending on the complexity. A two hour investigative assignment, with one half-hour of travel, mileage and administrative costs (i.e. report) averages \$275. If there are five local witnesses to interview the expected cost of the assignment would be approximately \$400.

Based upon our initial consultation and case review, a benchmark will be estimated to proceed with the assignment. This benchmark is an estimate of the halfway point and is based upon all of the information provided to us and assignment goals. At this benchmark I will advise of our progress and remaining elements to complete the assignment with a final estimate. Where possible a firm quote will be given for short-term assignments.

FAQs

Can we assist with finding a consulting expert?

Our association memberships include the National Association of Medical Examiner's, International Association for Identification, Evidence Photographer's International Council and Professional Private Investigators Association of Colorado. Over the past twenty years I have developed many professional relationships and over the past six years have had the opportunity to work and associate with many experts in Forensic Pathology, Forensic Toxicology, Forensic Entomology, Forensic Anthropology, Crime Scene Investigation, etc. – to list a few. Please contact us any time to review your needs and I will assist with putting you in touch with the expert you need.

We are available every day, 24 hours, for no-fee consultations and your investigative needs.

Visit our website (www.Forensic-Investigators.com) for updates and current information.

Click on 'Newsletter & Events' for all newsletters.

Sincerely,



Inv. Dean A. Beers, AST
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