

# OSAC RESEARCH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FORM



**Title of research need:**

**Keyword(s):**

**Submitting subcommittee(s):**  **Date Approved:**

*(If SAC review identifies additional subcommittees, add them to the box above.)*

## Background Information:

1. Does this research need address a gap(s) in a current or planned standard? (ex.: Field identification system for on scene opioid detection and confirmation)

2. Are you aware of any ongoing research that may address this research need that has not yet been published (e.g., research presented in conference proceedings, studies that you or a colleague have participated in but have yet to be published)?

3. Key bibliographic references relating to this research need: (ex.: Toll, L., Standifer, K. M., Massotte, D., eds. (2019). Current Topics in Opioid Research. Lausanne: Frontiers Media SA. doi: 10.3389/978-2-88963-180-3)

Death scene investigation guidelines, Section B. section 2 (p. 24) --  
<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/234457.pdf>  
COVID-19 guidance <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/medicolegal-faq.html>.

4. Review the annual operational/research needs published by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) at <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/forensic-science-research-and-development-technology-working-group-operational#latest>? Is your research need identified by NIJ?

5. In what ways would the research results improve current laboratory capabilities?

By equipping medicolegal death investigators with the resources and toolkit to stay safe at all death scenes, whether it be from infectious diseases to hostile scenes, medicolegal death investigators are able to have maximum focus on the death in order to provide the medical examiner/coroner with a thorough medicolegal death scene report.

6. In what ways would the research results improve understanding of the scientific basis for the subcommittee(s)?

Our subcommittee focuses on ways to improve medicolegal death investigations, which are led by medicolegal death investigators at the scene. Ensuring medicolegal death investigator safety is critical to a thorough medicolegal death investigation.

7. In what ways would the research results improve services to the criminal justice system?

By ensuring medicolegal death investigators of their safety, they will be able to provide better medicolegal death scene reports, which is critical because the “autopsy starts at the scene” and may provide critical evidence to the criminal justice system.

8. Status assessment (I, II, III, or IV):

I

	<b>Major gap in current knowledge</b>	Minor gap in current knowledge
<b>No or limited</b> current research is being conducted	<b>I</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>Existing</b> current research is being conducted	<b>II</b>	<b>IV</b>

*This research need has been identified by one or more subcommittees of OSAC and is being provided as an informational resource to the community.*