

## **2.356 DEATHS & HOMICIDES**

- A. Consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Baltimore County Police Department (PCPD), that agency is responsible for investigating all on-campus Homicides and attempts, Unattended deaths, including suicides and deaths of persons under 18. See also **1.100 Authority**.
- B. Initially responding officers will:
1. Enter buildings and rooms without search warrants for the purpose of:
    - a. Search for and locating the victims and provide and summons medical aid, if necessary;
    - b. Confirming death by observation of victims' obvious conditions or pronouncements of death by competent authorities and documenting same;
    - c. Taking necessary steps to prevent the loss or destruction of any evidence; and
    - d. Search for and detain any assailants and witnesses that may still be on the scene.
  2. Attempt to preliminarily determine the possible cause or circumstances of death;
  3. Protect the immediate area of the crime scene, indoors or outdoors by:
    - a. Establishing the crime scene perimeter as large as reasonably possible;
    - b. Not disturbing or contaminating anything at crime scene unless it is necessary to immediately possess evidence that may be lost, stolen, or damaged if left in its original possession;
    - c. Not using any on-scene phones, computers, etc. to preserve any evidence on them;
    - d. Making thorough notes of any alterations made to the scene, such as opening or closing doors, turning lights on or off, etc.;
  4. Ensure required notifications are made;
  5. Inform Communications of all particulars which have been obtained such as suspect description, direction of travel, vehicles, etc.;
  6. Leave bodies in their original positions. However, if bodies have to be moved, draw a sketch of where the bodies were and record the names and other appropriate identification information of the persons, such as ambulance personnel, who moved the bodies;
  7. Obtain names and other appropriate identification information of witnesses and detain them;
  8. Record all facts and details regarding the case such as date and time of the call, arrival time, weather and lighting conditions, description and location of known evidence, and locations, names, addresses of suspects, witnesses, and victims; and
  9. Stop their investigative actions once the scene is stabilized and protected to await responding investigators.