

It is the duty of the San Francisco Police Department Homicide Detail to investigate all deaths in the City and County of San Francisco which are deemed by the County Medical Examiner's Office to be a death at the hands of another or suspicious in nature.

Homicide Inspectors work in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office, the Medical Examiner's Office, and any necessary detail within the San Francisco Police Department, in concerted efforts to effectively and thoroughly investigate all homicides. It is also the responsibility of the Homicide Detail to keep family members apprised and updated on the status of the investigation into their family member's case. This includes updates on suspect information, if any, court information, if any, and any other issues related to the investigation. In many cases, family and community members can be integral to the successful conclusion of the investigation and are always encouraged to keep in contact with the assigned Inspectors.

Case #:

Inspector #1:

Direct Line:

Inspector #2:

Direct Line:

Services and programs offered through San Francisco's Office of the District Attorney

Services for the Families of Homicide Victims:

The Victim Services Division of the Office of the District Attorney is committed to serving crime victims, including the surviving families of homicide victims. It is our goal to make the criminal justice system more humane and accessible by providing comprehensive advocacy and support. All services are free of cost to victims. Services include:

- **Funeral and burial assistance:** Funds up to \$7,500 can be available to help pay burial and memorial costs.
- **Crisis intervention and grief counseling:** We help families access immediate and on-going counseling, which is crucial for all survivors, especially children, who lose family members to violence.
- **Crime scene cleanup:** This assistance may be available when a homicide takes place in a person's home. Victims who are interested in this service should call our office to obtain further information.
- **Moving assistance/emergency shelter:** Survivors may be eligible for help with expenses to move for their physical safety or well-being.

A wide range of other services are available. If you are a family member of a homicide victim, we urge you to contact the Victim Services Division of the Office of the District Attorney at 415-553-9044.

Witness Relocation Program

In San Francisco, many of the homicides are committed in public places, oftentimes in front of at least one witness, sometimes in front of several witnesses. In many of these cases, witnesses are understandably reluctant to come forward and provide information to the responding police officers and the investigators for fear of retaliation. In some cases, the identity of the suspect may be known to investigators, however without witness testimony, it becomes difficult to prove.

The Witness Relocation Program is a program that can relocate witnesses who assist the District Attorney's Office to successfully prosecute criminal cases. This program is dedicated to helping those who risk their personal safety to help combat crime. We also strongly encourage family members to tell potential witnesses about the Program.

If anyone has any information that would be helpful for investigators, they are strongly urged to notify the San Francisco Police Department Homicide Detail at 415-553-1145, or call us anonymously at 415-575-4444, and all steps will be taken to ensure that potential witnesses will be protected to the best of our abilities.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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| • City & County of San Francisco
San Francisco Police Department
Homicide Detail
850 Bryant Street, Room 561
San Francisco, CA, 94103
415-553-1145 | • City & County of San Francisco
Chief Medical Examiner's Office
850 Bryant Street
North Terrace
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-553-1694 | • City & County of San Francisco
District Attorney's Office
Victim Services Division
850 Bryant Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-553-9044 |
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San Francisco Police Department's Anonymous Tip Line: 415-575-4444

Chief Medical Examiner's Role

The San Francisco Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is a medico-legal office charged by California Law to investigate all sudden and unexpected deaths in the City & County of San Francisco. It is the purpose of the Medical Examiner's Office to conduct their investigations in as unobtrusive and as caring a fashion as possible. Part of the Medical Examiner's legal responsibility is to positively identify the deceased, to notify the next-of-kin or other legal representative, and to protect the estate of the deceased until it can be turned over to legal heirs. For more information contact the Chief Medical Examiner's Office at 415-553-1694.

Funeral services: Once the Medical Examiner has completed a forensic examination, the next order of business is to contact a funeral director of your choice to handle the burial or cremation of your loved one. If you do not know a funeral director, you can find a list in the phone book, on the internet, or you can consult with family and/or friends in your search.

Medical Examiner Report/Death Certificate: Copies of the Medical Examiner's Report are available, once the case is closed, by calling the Office of the Medical Examiner at 415-553-1694. There is a fee for the report. Copies of the death certificate can be obtained by calling the Department of Health Vital Records at 415-554-2700.

Personal property: In any death that comes under the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner's Office, the M.E. Investigator may take charge of the personal effects until they can be turned over to the next-of-kin or legal representative. Property, other than prescription medications or ammunition, may be turned over to the next-of-kin following the close of the investigation. For property under the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner's Office, the property custodian can be reached at 415-553-1694. For property under the jurisdiction of the police, contact the Inspector handling the case.

Other helpful telephone numbers

- 24-Hr crisis/suicide hotline: **415-781-0500**
- Critical Intervention & Resolution Team [support after youth violence for the Western Addition]: **415-771-3938**
- DPH Response Team (Citywide): **415-970-3800**
- Parents of murdered children: **1-888-818-7662**

Common grief reactions

- Anger
- Disbelief/denial
- Shock & Confusion
- Changes in appetite/sleep
- Guilt/Self-blame
- Sadness/depression
- Anxiety about the future

Coping strategies

- Take deep breaths
- Get proper sleep
- Eat a balanced diet
- Avoid alcohol and/or drugs
- Be kind to yourself
- Be patient with yourself
- Ask for help if needed
- Lean on supportive friends and family

Always remember that there is no one common reaction to coping and dealing with stressful situations. Everybody handles stress in a personal way and you should never listen to anyone who says "get over it" or that you should be handling it in a different way. It takes time to heal. In the meantime, please know that there are many people and services in place to help those in need.



City & County of San Francisco

SFPD Homicide Detail

850 Bryant Street, Room 561, San Francisco, CA, 94103

415-553-1145



Victim & Family Assistance Information

San Francisco Police Department
Homicide Detail