

Meeting the Investigative Challenges
for New Detectives and Criminal Investigators

Course Overview:

This New Detective Investigator Training is designed to prepare newly assigned investigators for the transition from patrol to the complex, analytical world of criminal investigations. The course establishes a strong foundation in the mission, purpose, and professional responsibilities of a detective while emphasizing the critical mindset shift required for long-term investigative success. Participants will learn how to effectively triage and manage caseloads, preserve crime scenes, maintain chain of custody, and safeguard investigative integrity and personal wellness. Through instruction and practical application, detectives will gain proficiency in identifying suspects, developing leads, and analyzing cellular, digital, and physical evidence to move cases forward in a methodical and legally sound manner.

The training further focuses on advanced investigative functions, including death investigations, sensitive crimes, and major violent offenses. Participants will be able to execute professional interview and interrogation techniques consistent with constitutional requirements, draft reports and search warrants compliant with relevant case law, and apply best practices for scene documentation and evidence processing. Real-world case studies, practical exercises, and investigative scenarios reinforce critical thinking, decision-making, and courtroom readiness. By the conclusion of the course, detectives will be equipped to integrate investigative findings, communicate results effectively, and conduct thorough, ethical, and defensible investigations from initial response through case resolution.

Course Objectives:

- Define the mission, purpose, and professional responsibilities of a detective, including the mindset shift from patrol to investigations.
- Demonstrate effective methods for triaging and managing caseloads while maintaining investigative integrity and wellness.
- Apply a variety of investigative techniques for suspect identification and lead development, through the use of technology, pretext operations, and witness canvassing.
- Analyze and interpret cellular, digital, and physical evidence to develop actionable leads.
- Prepare professional reports and draft search warrants that comply with relevant case law (e.g., Carson Ruling, 404B evidence).
- Preserve and process crime scenes to maintain the chain of custody and prevent evidence contamination.
- Conduct death investigations, including suicides, overdoses, homicides, and accidental deaths, while applying best practices for documentation and scene assessment.
- Evaluate real-world case studies of complex homicide investigations to identify key investigative steps and lessons learned.
- Perform practical exercises simulating body movement, injury assessment, and reconstruction of violent incidents.
- Execute professional interview and interrogation tactics, consistent with Walker/Jackson Hearing standards, Miranda requirements, and evolving interpretations of “Custody.”
- Investigate sensitive crimes, including sexual assaults, CSAM, child abuse, domestic violence, and related offenses with empathy, accuracy, and evidentiary precision.
- Integrate case findings and communicate results effectively through case reviews, discussions, and courtroom-ready documentation.



Legal and Liability
Risk Management Institute
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Plainfield, IN 46168

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www.llrmi.com

March 15, 16 and 17, 2027 • Stapleton, Alabama



TRAINING SEMINAR

Meeting the Investigative
Challenges for New Detectives
and Criminal Investigators

March 15, 16 and 17, 2027
Stapleton, Alabama

SPONSORED BY:
APOSTC Law Enforcement Academy
Baldwin County
Bay Minette, Alabama

★ LLRMI Experienced Instructors ★
Make the Difference

Instructor
Jake Sparks
*Captain, Investigative Services
Ottawa County Sheriff’s Office, Michigan*

Register On-Line at: www.llrmi.com



Legal & Liability Risk Management Institute
James R. Alsup, Director
www.llrmi.com

Seminar Agenda

Monday, March 15, 2027

8:00 – 8:30 am	Registration
8:30 – 10:00 am	Purpose, Mission and Calling of a Detective • Training, Maintaining Caseload, Alternate Resolutions • Mindset change from Patrol, Burnout and Mental Health • Role of the Lead Detective (Primary Investigator)
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Investigative Techniques • Suspect Identification, Lead Development • Technology, Pretext Operations, Canvassing, ALPR, Victimology, History, Cellular Evidence, etc.
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch (On Your Own)
1:00 – 1:30 pm	Practical Application - Small Group Scenario Training
1:30 – 3:00 pm	The Importance of Report Writing and Search Warrants • Breaking down the Carson Ruling for Cellphone SW, 404B Evidence (prior bad acts)
3:00 – 4:30 pm	Crime Scene Basics • Integrity, Preservation, Weather, Transfer (Loccard’s) • Documentation, Processing DNA, Prints, Footwear

Tuesday, March 16, 2027

8:00 – 10:00 am	Death Investigations • Suicides, OD, Homicides, Auto Erotica, Hangings, Drownings, Infant Deaths
10:00 – 11:30 am	Case Studies - Le and Bonge Homicide investigations
11:30am – 12:30 pm	Lunch (On Your Own)

12:30 – 4:30 pm	Interview and Interrogation Tactics • With Recorded Example • Walker Hearing (Jackson vs. Denno), Miranda - same case law, Changing Court Interpretations of “Custody”
Wednesday, March 17, 2027	
8:00 – 9:00 am	Case Study - Maryann Castorena - Murder for Hire
9:00 – 10:00 am	Sex Crimes • CSAM, Sexual Assault, Paraphilias, A.I. Created Images
10:00 – 11:30 am	DV, Child Abuse and Serious Assault • Assaultive Injuries and Investigative Strategies
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Closing Comments and Certificate Presentation

Instructor Bio

Captain Jake Sparks began his career with the Ottawa County Sheriff’s Office in 1999, after graduating from Grand Valley State University with a B.A. in Criminal Justice. In 2003, he was selected as Deputy of the Year for his contributions to Community Policing. In 2006, Sparks was assigned to a Michigan State Police undercover narcotics task force. His time with the task force included street level drug and gang crime, but primarily involved interdiction and conspiracy investigations, working closely with Federal law enforcement to disrupt high level drug traffickers. Sparks was promoted to Detective in 2009 and has extensive experience investigating sexual assaults, robberies, homicides, and other major crimes, while also spending two years assigned to the Cold Case Team, investigating unsolved homicides. In 2017, Sparks was promoted to Detective Sergeant and later, Services Captain, overseeing numerous Community Policing initiatives, and the School Resource program. In February of 2018, Sparks was presented with the Distinguished Law Enforcement Service Award, after negotiating the surrender of an armed individual threatening police. Captain Sparks has also supervised the Ottawa County Sheriff’s Office Crisis Negotiation Team since 2019. In 2021, Sparks returned to the Investigative Services Unit, where he currently leads the Detective Bureau.

3 Ways to Register

Register Online at www.llrmi.com

Fax Form to:

317-386-8228

Mail Form to:

Legal and Liability Risk Management
700 N. Carr Rd., #595
Plainfield, Indiana 46168

Federal ID: 81-0692135



If you have any questions please call: **317-386-8325**

❖**PREPAYMENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER**❖

Upon receiving your registration we will send an Invoice to your department or agency. Checks, claim forms, purchase orders should be made payable to LLRMI.

Seminar Title:	Meeting the Investigative Challenges for New Detectives and Criminal Investigators
Seminar ID:	#17426
Dates:	March 15, 16 and 17, 2027
Registration Time:	March 15, 2027, 8 am
Instructors:	Jake Sparks
Seminar Location:	APOSTC 15950 Mosley Road Stapleton, Alabama 36578
Hotel Reservations:	Holiday Inn Express Daphne 29725 Woodrow Lane Daphne, Alabama 36526 1-251-621-1223 \$135.00 Single or Double (Plus Tax)
Group Code:	LLRMI To receive special room rates, please identify yourself with this group code.
Registration Fee:	\$350.00 Includes Meeting the Investigative Challenges for New Detectives and Criminal Investigators Training, Printed Training Manual and Certificate of Completion



Legal & Liability Risk Management Institute
James R. Alsup, Director
www.llrmi.com

Registration Form – Meeting the Investigative Challenges for New Detectives and Criminal Investigators #17426

Names of Attendees

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Agency _____

Invoice To Attention of: (Must be completed.) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Fax _____