Homicide Investigation: From the First Call to the Courtroom

"for New Detectives and Criminal Investigators"

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Course Overview

This course is designed for newly assigned homicide investigators, aiming to prepare them to effectively manage homicide investigations from the initial dispatch through arrest and prosecution. Students will learn investigative leadership skills, crime scene management, victimology, forensic evidence recognition, witness development, interviewing, digital evidence collection, search warrants, case organization, and courtroom preparation through classroom instruction and practical exercises.

Emphasis is placed on effective decision-making during the first 24 hours of the investigation, recognizing that early investigative actions frequently determine the ultimate success or failure of a homicide investigation.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the responsibilities of the homicide investigator.
- Explain investigative priorities during the initial response.
- Establish command of a homicide scene.
- Coordinate crime scene processing.
- Conduct effective victimology.
- Develop investigative timelines.
- Conduct neighborhood canvasses.
- Identify and interview witnesses.
- Conduct legally sound suspect interviews.
- Utilize digital evidence.
- Work effectively with the Coroner or Medical Examiner.
- Prepare search warrants.
- Organize a homicide case file.
- Present investigative findings to prosecutors.

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

Phone: 317-386-8325
FAX: 317-386-8228
www.llrmi.com

March 1, 2 & 3, 2027 • Kansas City, Missouri

TRAINING SEMINAR

Homicide Investigation: From the First Call to the Courtroom

"for New Detectives and Criminal Investigators"

March 1, 2 & 3, 2027
Kansas City, Missouri

SPONSORED BY:
Platte County Sheriff's Office
Kansas City, Missouri

This Course Will Be Submitted To
MO Post For Credit

★ **LLRMI Experienced Instructors** ★

Make the Difference

Instructor

Matthew Downing
Major (Active)
Berkeley County Sheriff's Office, South Carolina

Register On-Line at: www.llrmi.com

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

Seminar Agenda

Monday, March 1, 2027

8:00 – 8:30 am	Registration
8:30 – 9:00 am	Introduction
9:00 – 10:00 am	The Role of the Homicide Investigator
10:00 – 11:00 am	Receiving the Call
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Initial Response and Crime Scene Leadership
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch (On Your Own)
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Initial Response and Crime Scene Leadership (continued)
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Crime Scene Processing
4:00 – 4:30 pm	Reading the Crime Scene

Tuesday, March 2, 2027

8:00 – 9:30 am	Victimology: Understanding the Victim
9:30 – 10:30 am	Witness Development and Neighborhood Canvasses
10:30 – 11:30 am	Interviewing Witnesses
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Lunch (On Your Own)
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Interviewing Suspects
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Working with the Coroner and Medical Examiner
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Digital Evidence
4:00 – 4:30 pm	Case Organization and Prosecutor Preparation

Wednesday, March 3, 2027

8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Hands on Homicide Investigation • Phase I – Initial Response • Crime Scene Management • Developing Investigative Leads • Building Probable Cause • Case Presentation
12:00 pm	Certificate Presentation

Instructor Bio

Matthew Downing, currently a Major with the Berkeley County (SC) Sheriff's Office, began his law enforcement career in 2002 with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, where he transitioned from detention operations to patrol and later served as a SWAT operator and Detective. As a Detective, he developed extensive experience investigating serious criminal offenses, conducting surveillance and undercover operations, developing and executing search and arrest warrants, interviewing suspects and witnesses, and working closely with local and federal law enforcement partners.

In 2017, Downing joined the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office as a Detective, where his investigative career continued with a primary focus on complex and serious criminal investigations, including homicide and major violent crimes. He later served as a Detective Sergeant, supervising and mentoring investigators while continuing to oversee major cases. Following his promotion to Lieutenant, he assumed command of the Criminal Investigation Division, coordinating criminal investigations throughout Berkeley County. In this role, he established investigative priorities, developed courses of action for investigations and prosecution, reviewed investigative work, and helped guide complex cases from the initial investigation through case preparation.

Throughout his almost 14-year investigative career, Major Downing has built extensive experience in homicide and major violent crime investigations, before returning to patrol operations in 2023. Major Downing was promoted to Captain in 2024 and assigned as Operations Commander of the Hill-Finklea Detention Center and later promoted to Major in 2026. While his current responsibilities focus on executive leadership and the daily operation of a large detention facility, his professional background is deeply rooted in criminal investigations, particularly homicide and major violent crimes.

Major Downing is also an agency instructor, helping train and mentor deputies on a variety of law enforcement topics. He is a graduate of the FBI-LEEDA leadership program, earning the Trilogy Award, and the FBI Command College. He holds both Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Criminal Justice from Charleston Southern University.

Registration Form – Homicide Investigation: From the First Call to the Courtroom"#17522

Names of Attendees

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

Agency _____

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

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:	Homicide Investigation: From the First Call to the Courtroom
Seminar ID:	**#17522**
Dates:	March 1, 2 & 3, 2027
Registration Time:	March 1, 2027, 8 am
Instructors:	Matthew Downing
Seminar Location:	Platte County Sheriff's Office 11724 NW Plaza Circle Kansas City, Missouri 64153
Hotel Reservations:	Fairfield Inn & Suites Kansas City Airport 11820 NW Plaza Circle Kansas City, Missouri 64153 1-816-464-2424 State Gov't Rate (plus tax)
Group Code:	**State Gov't Rate - Must show State Gov't ID at check in to receive rate**
Registration Fee:	$350.00 Includes Homicide Investigation: From the First Call to the Courtroom Training, **Printed Training Manual** and Certificate of Completion

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James R. Alsup, Director

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