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## FORENSIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

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The University of Texas, USA

## The forensic nurse's role in death investigation and sexual assault

Porensic Nursing is an emergency specialty field of practice and has become a growing profession. Nurses in this field have unique and critical roles in the healthcare and judicial systems. Very few people realize the benefits that being a nurse offers in this field, which offers a link between medicine and the law. This presentation will reveal how a nursing background assists in accurate and thorough death and sexual assault investigations. Forensic photography techniques performed by the nurse which will be reviewed, to include colposcopy techniques. In addition, unusual death investigation case studies will be covered, to include homicides, hangings, overdoses, suicide by cop, accidents and natural deaths. Sexual Assault case studies will also be reviewed, which will include normal vs. abnormal variants.

## **Biography**

Julie Carriker has been a Registered Nurse for 23 years, working in various areas of the hospital prior to becoming a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner in 2002 and a Forensic Nurse Death Investigator in 2005. Julie is currently a Forensic Death Investigator with the Denton County Medical Examiner's Office in Denton, Texas, and serves as an independent contractor for all county law enforcement as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. Julie has privileges at Medical City Denton, Baylor Scott & White Hospital in Carrollton and Medical City Lewisville. Julie is a Diplomate with The American Board of Medicoloegal Death Investigators and is on their Board of Directors, as well as serving on various other committees within that organization. Julie is also a member of the International Association of Medical Examiners and Coroners. Julie lives in Argyle with her 19 year old daughter.

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