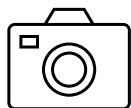


## Standard Guide for Post Mortem Examination Photography



### WHAT IS AN AAFS STANDARD FACTSHEET?

The AAFS produces clear, concise, and easy-to-understand factsheets to summarize the contents of technical and professional forensic science standards on the OSAC Registry. They are not intended to provide an interpretation for any portion of a proposed standard.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROPOSED STANDARD?

This standard was developed to provide guidance to forensic science service providers (FSSPs) and practitioners (FSPs) on the photographic documentation of post mortem examinations.

With countless camera and lighting options available to the practitioner, this standard aims to provide the types of photographs that should be captured, appropriate camera and lighting parameters, and to provide additional guidance on the use of scales and specialized equipment to capture accurate and detailed photographs throughout the examination process.

### WHY IS THIS PROPOSED STANDARD IMPORTANT? WHAT ARE ITS BENEFITS?

Post mortem examination photography (also referred to as autopsy photography) is the photographic documentation that takes place during the post mortem exam. This standard promotes the use of practices to capture important photographs with quality and consistency while maintaining image integrity throughout the process.

Post mortem photographs often benefit both medical practitioners and investigators with additional visual details that may serve various objectives in the identification of an individual or in other aspects of an investigation.

This OSAC Proposed Standard has been sent to ASTM International (ASTM) for further development and publication. Get involved as a member or by providing public comment.

### HOW IS THIS PROPOSED STANDARD USED, AND WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

This standard can be used by any FSP with appropriate training in forensic photography. This standard does not replace a formalized training program for post mortem examination photography.

The recommendations and requirements in this standard can guide FSSPs when creating standard operating procedures (SOPs), supplementing existing SOPs, or replacing existing SOPs.

While all aspects of uncommon and unusual situations may not be covered, this standard describes the types of photographs routinely captured throughout the examination process and the terminology used. Types of photographs addressed range from the general (e.g., as is, overall) to the more detailed (e.g., injuries; gross specimens; scars, marks, and tattoos; derived evidence, such as clothing or prosthetics). Camera, lighting, and environmental considerations are also discussed. Retention and storage recommendations are provided to safeguard the integrity of the photographs for use as a permanent record of the exam.

