# HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION CASE FILE PROFILE

# THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT MURDER BOOK

National Resource and Technical Assistance Center for Improving Law Enforcement Investigations









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## INTRODUCTION

Many police departments — especially those that are small, that do not have much experience investigating homicides, or that struggle for adequate resources — do not have a standardized case file structure for their homicide investigations. Instead, a large folder, accordion file, box, or plastic storage bin, with little to no organization or uniformity, is oftentimes used to house investigative documents. This type of unstructured case file system limits the accessibility of key case investigative documents and compromises the efficiency and effectiveness of the investigation and potential prosecution.

In the early 1980s, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) recognized this deficiency in their organization and developed a homicide investigation case file structure, entitled the Murder Book, to bring organization and standardization to homicide case files. The uniform structure of the Murder Book allows anyone involved in a homicide investigation, including other detectives, supervisors, and prosecutors, to review and locate key investigative reports, photos, and other materials in a standard way. As a result of utilizing the Murder Book, LAPD homicide detectives are able to more effectively manage their heavy investigative caseload.

## **PURPOSE**

The LAPD Murder Book is an example of a case file structure that can be adapted and customized by agencies seeking to implement a case file management structure. The Murder Book case file structure has been used successfully by LAPD for nearly four decades. It ensures proper documentation of a homicide investigation, facilitates effective case supervision, meets the needs of prosecutors for successful prosecution, and supports a cold case investigation should the case be reinvestigated.

This profile of the LAPD's Murder Book outlines the overall construction of an LAPD homicide investigation case file and details the contents of each section of the book. Examples of documents often contained within the Murder Book are provided. The structure can be utilized in either a hard-copy format (case binder) or replicated in a digital case management system. Some of the Murder Book's sections can also be applied to organize nonfatal shooting investigation case files.

## **BACKGROUND**

This profile of the Murder Book draws on the experience of Detective John Skaggs (Ret), who retired in June 2017 after serving more than 30 years with the LAPD. Detective Skaggs spent over 23 years assigned to homicide investigations, was the lead detective on 165 homicide investigations, and directly supervised more than 200 homicide investigations. During the course of his career, Detective Skaggs amassed a wealth of knowledge pertaining to homicide investigation case file management and the critical components of successful homicide prosecutions.

Detective Skaggs has conducted numerous homicide unit assessments and extensive reviews of homicide case files, and has conducted homicide investigation trainings throughout the U.S. Based on his experience investigating and supervising homicide investigations and assessing homicide units, Detective Skaggs developed and further refined the Murder Book case file management structure used by the LAPD and several other high-performing homicide units.

## MURDER BOOK DEVELOPMENT

Every homicide investigation requires the compilation and maintenance of a structured case file, either in electronic or hard-copy format. Utilizing and maintaining an all-inclusive investigation case file structure is a proven best practice that can ensure an investigation is properly documented and facilitate proper case management, supervision, and prosecution.

If a homicide investigation is conducted under one case number, then there should only be one Murder Book. For example, if the homicide investigation involved multiple victims but is listed under one case number, then there should only be one Murder Book.

The Murder Book case file consists of a three-ring binder, which contains all case-related materials outlined in the sections below. Case file dividers correspond to a Table of Contents with indices numbered 1 through 28. The indices correspond to topic headings within the Table of Contents and should be used to contain reports, photographs, notes, and any other information pertaining to that topic.

NOTE: A homicide investigation case file is discoverable, meaning its contents may have to be turned over to defense counsel during pre-trial proceedings. When a suspect is arrested and charged, a copy of the case file (in a binder) shall be provided to the prosecutor assigned to the case upon request.

## **MURDER BOOK CASE FILE SECTIONS**

The following lists each section of the LAPD Murder Book case file and provides a brief description of the content of each section.

## Table of Contents (see appendix 1)

## Section 1 Chronological Record

This form documents, in summary form, the chronological record of the investigation, recording the date and time of the entry, as well as the name of the detective who authored the entry.

All homicide investigations should contain a chronological record of events that document advancement in the investigation and information needed for future investigation. It should provide a brief description of the detective's actions, what was investigated, and what may need to be further investigated at a later time. It should reference where in the Murder Book a report or notes that further explain the event or issue can be found. The reader of the chronological record should be able to understand how the investigation progressed (see appendix 2).

## Section 2 Crime Scene Log

All investigations should have a crime scene log that documents all personnel present at the crime scene who enter the area not accessible to the public. The report should document the personnel, their names and identification numbers, time of arrival and departure, and their duties performed at the scene. The crime scene log should identify the name of the officer who maintained and completed the crime scene log (see appendix 3).

## Section 3 Crime Report

The crime report should be completed by the primary investigator. This report contains victim information, witness information, a summary of their statements, and a synopsis of the crime, including modus operandi. This report is also commonly referred to as a "24-hour" homicide report (see appendix 4).

## Section 4 Death Report

This section contains the death report (see appendix 5).

Many departments produce a death report for all deaths in their jurisdiction, whether it be from natural causes, an accident, a suicide, traffic death, or homicide. On criminal homicide deaths, a crime report and/or an incident report, as previously outlined, is also produced to report the crime.

#### Section 5 Property and Evidence Report(s)

This section contains all reports regarding the recovery and storage of property and evidence (e.g., recovered property report, evidence report, and chain of custody reports).

#### Section 6 Crime Lab Report(s)

This section contains requests for laboratory examination of evidence and all reports regarding the scientific analysis of evidence, including NIBIN, DNA, and latent prints completed by any crime laboratory.

#### Section 7 Vehicle Report(s)

This section contains all vehicle reports pertaining to the investigation, including photographs of the vehicle and motor vehicle computer printouts.

#### Section 8 Arrest Report(s)

All arrest reports generated from the investigation should be stored here, as well as any prior arrest reports related to suspects, witnesses, and others who are involved in the investigation. Subsections can be created to separate items related to specific individuals.

#### Section 9 Related Crime Report(s)

Crime reports related to victims, suspects, witnesses, and other individuals should be gathered together here. Subsections can be created to separate items related to specific individuals.

## Section 10 Follow-up Report(s)

This section contains reports written by homicide detectives related to the current investigation that are produced after the completion of the initial crime report. Generally, a follow-up report is used by a detective to document investigative steps taken that are important to the progress of the investigation.

One of the most important reasons to produce a follow-up report is to present a case to the prosecutor's office for charging a suspect. The follow-up report should include all important developments in the case that support the request for charges on the particular individual(s). Instead of verbally explaining a case to the prosecutor and supplying several individual reports that may include witness' statements, lab results, and descriptions of the crime scene, a follow-up report would include all of this information in a single document.

Additionally, a best practice for homicide investigations is to complete a follow-up report to document the status of an unsolved homicide investigation, required within 60 to 90 days after the murder. The report should include a summary of the crime, follow-up activities performed by the investigator, the status of any scientific examinations, including DNA or ballistic evidence, and a task list section (see appendix 6).

## Section 11 Victim(s) Information

This section contains all personal information regarding the victim(s), including their rap/ arrest sheet, Motor Vehicle Department information, photographs/mug shots, and other computer-generated reports.

If there are multiple victims, a subdivider listing the victim's name or designated letters should be used.

## Section 12 Suspect(s) Information

This section contains all personal information regarding the suspect(s), including their rap/ arrest sheet, Motor Vehicle Department information, photographs/mug shots, and other computer-generated reports such as their use of social media.

If there are multiple suspects, a subdivider listing the suspect's name or designated letters should be used.

If a suspect is later eliminated as a suspect, their information should be removed and placed in the appropriate section. For example, if they become a witness, their information should be moved to the witness section. If they are eliminated as a suspect and have no other status in the investigation, their information should be moved to the Eliminated Suspects section of the Murder Book.

## Section 13 Photo Line-ups

This section contains photographic arrays (6-packs) or single photographs used for conducting sequential photo line-ups. The photographic admonition and any documents written and/or signed by witnesses should be kept in this section.

## Section 14 Witness List/Statements

A list of all witnesses should be kept at the front of this section. The list should include the witness' assigned witness number (if given one), name, address, phone number, and the recording number if the interview was recorded. The witness' statement report and/or notes are stored in the section corresponding with their assigned witness number.

## Section 15 Officer at Scene Reports/Notes

This section contains any reports, such as an initial patrol officer's report or supplemental reports and notes completed by officers who responded to the scene and performed essential duties (e.g., a neighborhood canvass) or discovered important evidence or information. These reports should detail the actions performed and the information or evidence discovered.

## Section 16 Crime Scene Notes/Diagrams

Investigators should document, in narrative form, the description of the crime scene, whether it be exterior or interior. Additionally, a diagram should be completed that depicts the location of the body, items of evidence, parked vehicles along with their descriptions and license plate numbers, and any other items of interest. This section should also include diagrams completed by officers or detectives at the scene and by crime lab personnel who create handwritten diagrams or computer-aided crime scene diagrams.

## Section 17 Crime Scene Photographs

All photographs taken during the crime scene investigation should be kept here. The photos may be of the victim, the surrounding area, evidence, involved vehicles, witnesses, potential witnesses, and suspects. At a minimum, proof sheets and CDs/thumb drives containing all photos should be stored in this section.

## Section 18 Ambulance/Medical Records

This section includes reports such as a paramedic run sheet produced by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) who responded to the scene or reports from medical personnel at the hospital, including relevant medical records. The location to which the victim was transported or treated and the identity of medical personnel who recovered evidence (e.g., clothing from the victim and/or suspect) should be stored in this section.

## Section 19 Medical Examiner's Report

All reports related to or produced by the Medical Examiner's Office should be stored in this section. Detectives should include diagrams and photographs of the decedent's body and the autopsy report.

## Section 20 Communications

This section contains all teletypes, press releases, police bulletins, wanted flyers, newspaper clippings, and agency-generated social media posts regarding the investigation.

#### Section 21 Search Warrants

All Search Warrants, the Return to Search Warrant, and related documents should be stored in this section.

## Section 22 Miscellaneous Notes

This section is reserved for general notes, such as canvassing notes, taken by detectives that do not belong in any other section.

## Section 23 Miscellaneous Computer Runs

This section contains general computer runs such as Lexus/Nexus reports or Google queries that are not required to be stored in any other section.

## Section 24 Video/CCTV

This section contains video recordings, captured in and around the area of the crime scene.

## Section 25 Eliminated Suspect(s)

Information on suspects that have been eliminated during the investigation should be kept here.

## Sections 26-28 Additional Documents

Three extra sections at the back of the Murder Book give detectives a place to organize and store any additional documents related to the case, such as the victim's phone records, crime scene tower dump records, social media posts, and the like.

**Appendix 1: Murder Book Cover Page and Table of Contents Template** 

VICTIM'S NAME (LAST, FIRST)		
DATE	PRECINCT/AREA	CASE NO.
ASSIGNED DETECTIVE(S)		

## CONTENTO

	IABLE	: OF CONTENTS
SECTIO	N	SECTION
1.	Chronological Record	13. Photo Line-ups
<ol> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>6.</li> </ol>	Crime Scene Log Crime Report Death Report Property and Evidence Report(s) Crime Lab Report(s) A. DNA B. Latent Prints C. Chain of Custody Records Vehicle Report(s)	14. Witness List A. Statements  15. Officer at Scene Reports/Notes  16. Crime Scene Notes/Diagrams  17. Crime Scene Photographs  18. Ambulance/Medical Records  19. Medical Examiner's Report  20. Communications A. Teletypes
8. 9. 10. 11.	Victim(s) Information A. Statements B. Photographs	B. Press Releases C. Police Bulletins D. Newspaper Clippings 21. Search Warrants A. Cell Phone Records 22. Miscellaneous Notes
12.	C. Background Information D. Probation/Parole Status E. Rap Sheet Suspect(s) Information A. Statements B. Arrest Warrant C. Photographs D. Probation/Parole Status E. Rap Sheet	23. Miscellaneous Computer Runs 24. Video/CCTV 25. Eliminated Suspect(s) 26. 27. 28.

# **Appendix 2: Chronological Record**

PAGE No. 1

INSTRUCTIONS: This form is used to document any past or future investigative events deemed necessary to control or develop this case.

## Investigation

## **EXEMPLAR**

Case No. 17-2345

1-1-17	0600	Notified by District 3 Watch Commander, Sgt.K. Smith, #2351, of murder at 1130 S. Vermont Avenue. Unidentified male White found stabbed to death on bus bench. Skaggs
	0605	Notified my partner, Det. R. Jones, #2352, of the murder. Skaggs
	0700	Jones and I arrived at scene. Briefed by Patrol Officer A. Randall, #2722, of incident. Sgt. B. Lee #2723, is incident commander. Skaggs
	0720	Located Witness Cindy Davis. Stated she saw victim, who she knows as T-Bone, a transient, in a dispute with another local transient, who she knows as Ace. They argued over money and Ace stabbed T-Bone in chest. Audio recorded tape No. 34523. See statement in Sect 14. Skaggs
	0800	Coroner Investigator T. Pickens. Arrived at scene. Rolled prints of victim, identified as Carl Lewis, DOB 1-2-66. Crime lab Tech. C. Barling, #2662, at scene. Completed photographs of scene and recovered swabs of blood drops. Skaggs
	0900	Coroner took possession of body. Cleared scene. Skaggs
	1105	Made death notification to Lewis' family. Mother Mary Lewis, 1871 N. Main Street, Cell 555-1212. Stated victim told her last week he was having problems with a guy named Ace, over drug money. Audio recorded tape # 34524. See statement Section 14. Skaggs
1-2-17	0630	Canvassed crime scene. Located witness Tom Jones transported him to station. He said he was at bus stop yesterday when two men argued over money. Heard victim say, "leave me alone Ace," then suspect stabbed him. Audio tape #34525. See statement in section #14. Skaggs
	0900	Received anonymous tip on homicide main phone number. Stated Ace stabbed victim. Knows Ace as Adam Rice who lives in alley behind Tommy's Liquor Store at 3 <sup>rd</sup> /Main. Conducted computer runs. Id Adam Rice, DOB 5-6-66. State ID No. 001212134. Skaggs
	0930	Responded to Tommy's Liquor, 301 S. Main St. Located Rice sleeping in alley. Made PC arrest. During pat down search, Det Jones located 6" folding knife in his pocket. Skaggs
	1000	Interviewed Rice at station. Waived Miranda. Stated he stabbed victim in self-defense. He "thought" victim may have had a knife but did not see one. Video tape #34588. See statement in section #12. Skaggs
	1200	Met with witness Davis to conduct photo show up. She positively ID Rice as suspect from 6pack #A. Met with witness Jones who viewed 6pack #A. Stated #3(Rice) "looked like suspect but can't be sure." See photo ID forms in section #14. Audio tape #33342 Skaggs
1-3-17	0830	Presented this case to DA L. Shields. Charged Rice with Murder, Case # TA98765. Skaggs

# **Appendix 2a: Chronological Record Template**

Dept Form # PAGE No. 1

## **CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form is used to document any past or future investigative events deemed necessary to control or develop this case.

Investigation Case No.

Date	Time	Summary of Events

Dept Form # PAGE No. 2

## **CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form is used to document any past or future investigative events deemed necessary to control or develop this case.

Investigation Case No.

Date	Time	Summary of Events

# **Appendix 3: Crime Scene Log Template**

CRIME	SCENI	E <b>LO</b> (		☐ INTERIOR CRIME SCENE ☐ PERIMETER/EXTERIOR CRIME SCENE				
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## CRIME SCENE LOG

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# **Appendix 4: Crime Report**

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**REVIEW** 

#### **CRIME SUMMARY:**

On August 21, 2017, at 2235 hours, the victim, Jane Doe, a 27-year-old female White, was driving her vehicle described as a 2010 Ford Explorer, 4-door green, California License No. 111XXX. She was stopped eastbound lane-1 Main Street at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue for a red light signal. The suspect, a lone male White, 30-35 years old, driving a late model Chevrolet Camaro, 2-door white, stopped next to her eastbound lane-2 Main Street at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The suspect said something to the victim and she rolled down her front passenger window. The suspect extended his left hand out the window holding a chrome semi-automatic handgun, pointed it toward Doe and fired two gunshots. The suspect accelerated rapidly, spinning his tires and fled eastbound Main Street. After the gunshots, Doe' car rolled forward and collided with a streetlight pole on the northwest corner of Main Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Witness Linda Smith, phoned 911 and reported what she saw.

Los Angeles Fire Department Paramedics R. Jacobs, No. 2199, and K. Koury, No. 2254, assigned to Rescue No. 8, responded to the scene where they attempted life-saving treatment on Doe. Jacobs pronounced Doe dead at 2252 hours.

Officers A. Boyd, No. 2239 and S. Zych, No. 2311, assigned to Unit 2A42, received a radio call of a shooting that just occurred at Main Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Upon arrival, they set up containment of the scene, began a Crime Scene log, talked with bystanders and located two spent 9mm casings in the intersection. See their statements for further description.

#### **NOTIFICATION OF DETECTIVES:**

On August 21, 2017, at 2255 hours, Watch Commander, Lieutenant C. Carson, No. 1997, telephonically notified Homicide Detectives R. Davis, No. 1672, and P. Thomas, No. 1821, of this homicide at their respective residences.

#### **INVESTIGATION:**

Davis arrived at the scene at 0030 hours and Thomas arrived at 0045 hours. They noted the entire crime scene was located outdoors. Main Street is four lane roadway travelling east and west. It is comprised of small businesses for several blocks in each direction. 9th Avenue is a two lane roadway that travels north and south. It is comprised of residential homes and apartments.

Detectives noted Doe's vehicle came to rest against a streetlight pole on the northwest corner. It displayed light damage to the front bumper and hood. The engine was running and the transmission was in gear when the first responding officers, Boyd and Zych arrived. For safety reasons Boyd placed the transmission in the park position and turned off the ignition.

Detectives observed two 9mm casings in the roadway. They directed Forensic personnel to recover the items.

Detectives were directed to witness Linda Smith who was at her residence located at 905 W. Main Street. She witnessed the shooting and called 911 to report the incident.

Smith stated she was sitting on her front porch swing that faces Main Street. She saw the victim driving a green Ford Explorer, stop for the red light eastbound Main Street in lane-1 at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Approximately five seconds later, the suspect who she described as a male White, 30 to 35 years old, medium height and weight with shoulder length black hair, wearing a white t-shirt, stopped next to her in lane-2. He was driving a newer white Chevrolet Camaro two-door. The suspect yelled something at the victim and she rolled down her front passenger window. Smith then saw the suspect's left hand extend out of his driver's window. He pointed a chrome semi-automatic handgun at her and fired two gunshots. The suspect immediately sped away, spinning his tires and running the red light, eastbound Main Street out of Smith's view. Smith then phoned 911 to report what she saw.

Detectives canvassed the crime scene and were unable to locate additional witnesses that saw what occurred.

Upon clearing the scene at 0130 hours, detectives responded to Doe's residence at 2741 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. They contacted Doe's mother, Lucy Doe. Lucy stated that Jane did not have any known enemies and she did not know of any reason someone would assault her. She does not know anyone fitting the suspect's description or owning a white Camaro.

#### **EVIDENCE:**

Item No. 1, two Remington 9mm spent casings were recovered from the roadway. Refer to the Forensic Report for further details.

**Appendix 4a: Crime Report Template** 

#### ☐ COMBINED EVID REPORT **UCR CODE** CRIME REPORT ☐ MULTIPLE DR'S ON THIS REPORT CC INVEST. DIV. INC # DR# **CASE SCREENING FACTORS** REPORT OF: ■ SUSPECT/VEHICLE NOT SEEN LAST NAME, FIRST MIDDLE (OR NAME OF BUSINESS) SEX DESC WT AGE D<sub>0</sub>B ■ PRINTS OR OTHER EVIDENCE NOT PRESENT ■ MO NOT DISTINCT **ADDRESS** CITY STATE 7IP **PHONE** Χ PROPERTY LOST LESS THAN \$5,000 R ■ NO SERIOUS INJURY TO VICTIM B. B. ■ ONLY ONE VICTIM INVOLVED EMAIL: C: PREMISES (SPECIFIC TYPE) ■ ATM DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.) FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN OCCUPATION ENTRY (459/BFV) POINT OF ENTRY POINT OF EXIT LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE SAME AS VICT'S PRINTS BY PREL. INV. RES 🗆 BUS 🗆 RD ATTEMPT $\square Y \square N$ Front OBTAINED $\square$ Y $\square$ N Rear METHOD DATE & TIME OF OCCURRENCE DATE & TIME REPORTED TO PD Side Roof STOLEN / LOST | RECOVERED EST. DAMAGED ARSON / VAND. Floor INSTRUMENT/TOOL USED TYPE PROPERTY STOLEN / LOST / DAMAGED Other \$ \$ \$ VICT'S VEHICLE (IF INVOLVED) YEAR, MAKE, TYPE, COLOR, LIC. NO., STATE NOTIFICATIONS CONNECTED REPORTS MO: IF LONG FORM, LIST UNIQUE ACTIONS. IF SHORT FORM, DESCRIBE SUSPECT'S ACTIONS IN BRIEF PHRASES, INCLUDING WEAPON USED. DO NOT REPEAT ABOVE INFO BUT CLARIFY REPORT AS NECESSARY. IF ANY OF THE MISSING ITEMS ARE POTENTIALLY IDENTIFIABLE, ITEMIZE AND DESCRIBE ALL ITEMS MISSING IN THIS INCIDENT IN THE NARRATIVE. ☐ MANDATORY MARSY'S RIGHTS CARD PROVIDED TO VICTIM ☐ MOTIVATED BY HATE/PREJUDICE ☐ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INITIALS, LAST NAME SERIAL NO DIV / DETAIL SIGNATURE OR RECEIVED BY PHONE PERSON REPORTING REPORTING **EMPLOYEES** NOTE: IF SHORT FORM, AND VICTIM / PR ARE NOT THE SAME, ENTER PR INFORMATION IN INVOLVED PERSONS SECTION COMPLETE BELOW SECTIONS IF ANY CASE SCREENING FACTORS BOXES ARE NOT CHECKED. YEAR MAKE & MODEL TYPE INTERIOR COLOR **EXTERIOR** BODY **WINDOWS** SUSP. **VEHICLE** ☐ 1 CUSTOM WHEELS □ 1 DAMAGE □ 5 RIGHT ☐ 1 DAMAGE □ 5 RIGHT ☐ 2 PAINTED INSCRIPT ☐ 2 MODIFIED ☐ 6 FRONT □ 2 CUST ☐ 6 FRONT COLOR(S) LICENSE NO STATE ☐ 3 LEVEL ALTERED □ 3 STICKER □ 7 REAR ☐ 3 CURTAINS ☐ 7 REAR □ BUCKET SEATS 4 RUST / PRIMER ☐ 4 LEFT ☐ 4 LEFT ☐ DAMAGED INSIDE ☐ 5 CUSTOM PAINT ☐ 6 VINYI TOP DESC HAIR EYES HEIGHT WEIGHT AGE CLOTHING NAME ADDRESS, DOB, IF KNOWN NAME, BOOKING NO., CHARGE, IF ARRESTED SEX S WEAPON (VERBAL THREATS, BODILY FORCE, SIMULATED GUN, ETC. PERSONAL ODDITIES (UNUSUAL FEATURES, SCARS, TATTOOS, ETC.) IF KNIFE OR GUN. DESCRIBE FULLY) NAME ADDRESS, DOB, IF KNOWN NAME, BOOKING NO., CHARGE, IF ARRESTED SEX DESC HAIR **EYES HEIGHT** WEIGHT AGE **CLOTHING** S WEAPON (VERBAL THREATS, BODILY FORCE, SIMULATED GUN, ETC. 1 PERSONAL ODDITIES (UNUSUAL FEATURES, SCARS, TATTOOS, ETC.) IF KNIFE OR GUN, DESCRIBE FULLY)

INVOLVED PERSON(S): W - WITNESS; R - PERSON REPORTING; S - PERSON SECURING (459); D - PERSON DISCOVERING (459); P - PARENT; CP - CONTACT PERSON (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE) NAME SEX DESC DOB ADDRESS CITY STATE **PHONE** H: W B: DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, LIST OTHER ID & NO.) FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN EMAIL: NAME SEX DESC DOB ADDRESS CITY STATE 7IP **PHONE** H: DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, LIST OTHER ID & NO.) FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN lΒ٠ EMAIL: NAME SEX DESC DOB **ADDRESS** CITY STATE 7IP PHONE H: B: DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, LIST OTHER ID & NO.) FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN FMAII C:

## CRIME REPORT

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APPROVAL AND												
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CRIME SUMMARY:	

NOTIFICATION OF DETECTIVES:	
INVESTIGATION:	
EVIDENCE:	

**Appendix 5: Death Report** 

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On August 21, 2017, at 2235 hours, the victim, Jane Doe, a 27-year-old female White, was driving her vehicle described as a 2010 Ford Explorer, 4-door green, California License No. 111XXX. She was stopped eastbound lane-1 Main Street at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue for a red light signal. The suspect, a lone male White, 30-35 years old, driving a late model Chevrolet Camaro, 2-door white, stopped next to her eastbound lane-2 Main Street at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The suspect said something to the victim and she rolled down her front passenger window. The suspect extended his left hand out the window holding a chrome semi-automatic handgun, pointed it toward Doe and fired two gunshots. The suspect accelerated rapidly, spinning his tires and fled eastbound Main Street. After the gunshots, Doe' car rolled forward and collided with a streetlight pole on the northwest corner of Main Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Witness Linda Smith, phoned 911 and reported what she saw.

Los Angeles Fire Department Paramedics R. Jacobs, No. 2199 and K. Koury, No. 2254, assigned to Rescue No. 8, responded to the scene where they attempted life saving treatment on Doe. Jacobs pronounced Doe dead at 2252 hours.

SUPERVISOR APPROVING	SERIAL NO.	REPORTING OFFICER(S) R. DAVIS	SERIAL NO. <b>1672</b>	HOMICIDE
DATE & TIME REPRODUCED	DIVISION CLERK	P. THOMAS	SERIAL NO. 1821	HOMICIDE

**Appendix 5a: Death Report Template** 

## **DEATH INVESTIGATION**

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## **DEATH INVESTIGATION**

NARRATIVE:				
SUPERVISOR APPROVING	SERIAL NO.	REPORTING OFFICER(S)	SERIAL NO.	DIVISION
DATE & TIME PRONOUNCED DIVISI	ON CLERK	REPORTING OFFICER(S)	SERIAL NO.	DIVISION

**Appendix 6: Follow-up Report(s)** 

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03.14.00 (10/13)... FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION INC# 1412190xxxx

REPORTING OFFICER(S)

REPORTING OFFICER(S)

J. SKAGGS

SERIAL NO.

25252

SERIAL NO.

DIVISION

WBH

DIVISION

SERIAL NO.

CLERK

DIVISION

SUPERVISOR APPROVING

DATE & TIME REPRODUCED

Detectives located security video from a Jack in the Box Restaurant, located at 12XX Washington Place. The video depicts a white mid 2000's Cadillac Escalade go through the drive-thru 63 minutes before the shooting occurred. It appeared the driver was a female and there was an unknown front passenger. Then Escalade exited the drive-thru and parked in a stall in their parking lot. The suspect was seen seen at the mouth of the alley and the Jack in the Box parking lot. Moments later, the Escalade pulled out of the parking stall and drove away. The suspect could not be seen getting into the escalade but due to the unusual time it was in the parking lot, it could possibly be a getaway vehicle.

Detectives inspected the VICTIM'S vehicle that was tampered with. A shoe print was located on the right rear passenger door that appeared to be fresh. The print looked like a Van's brand tennis shoe. Photographs were take of the shoe print along with a lift.

The following day, detectives recanvassed the crime scene and located what they believe was the path taken by the suspect as he fled from the shooting scene. Three doors east of the VICTIM'S apartment, at 12XXX Washington Place, detectives were directed to property damage by its owner, Naren XXX. He showed detectives broken limbs on a bush, two shoe impressions in damp soil and a broken fence post that was consistent with someone climbing over it. He had inspected his property hours before the shooting occurred and this damage was not there. His broken fence leads into the yard where the suspect was seen on video climbing over the fence into the alley. Detectives had Scientific Investigation Division personnel photograph this evidence and take castings of the shoe impressions in the soil. The shoe impressions appeared to be Van's brand and appeared to be the same as the shoe print on the VICTIM'S car door.

Detectives met with the VICTIM'S family at UCLA Hospital. The victim's brother, Mark, stated that he, VICTIM, his mother Lidia, and his sister, Daisy, were inside their 2<sup>nd</sup> floor apartment. Mark was in the shower when he heard the VICTIM tell him, "Gonners outside, Gonners outside." Mark quickly got out of the shower and went to his bedroom for clothing. He heard a gunshot outside and looked out the window. He saw a person he knows as Greg, who uses the moniker, Gonner, walking away from VICTIM eastbound on the sidewalk. Mark went outside and discovered the VICTIM lying on the ground with a gunshot wound to his head. Mark described Greg as a male Hispanic 18 years old, light complexion, slim build, a few inches shorter than the VICTM, wearing a black hat and black sweater or T-shirt. Mark admitted that he and the VICTIM are members of the Straight Crazy Klan (SCK) street gang and Greg is a member of their rival gang, Criminals For Life (CFL) street gang. He said they have had many problems with CFL members and he has seen the SUSPECT during several encounters.

Detectives interviewed the VICTIM'S mother, Lidia, who stated she was in the living room when the VICTIM told her someone was outside screaming and threw something at the family's vehicle. Lidia said she then heard a loud noise as if someone had closed a car door. The VICTIM put on a T-shirt and told her he was going downstairs. Lidia followed him downstairs. When the VICTIM made it downstairs she heard a gunshot. She saw the suspect turn around and run eastbound. Lidia described the suspect as a male Hispanic, 5'6" to 5'7" tall, medium build, wearing a black T-shirt and black pants.

Detectives interviewed the VICTIM'S sister, Daisy, who said she was in the bedroom with her earphones on. Mark was in the shower and the VICTIM was in the living room with their mother, Lidia. Daisy saw the VICTIM look out the window and then Lidia run out of the apartment. Daisy looked outside her bedroom window and saw the suspect she described as a male Hispanic, 17 to 18 years old, 5'8" to 5'9" tall, slim build, wearing a black hoodie, jeans and a black baseball cap with a red logo on the front. As the VICTIM approached the suspect, the suspect turned around, raised his arm toward the VICTIM and she heard two gunshots. Daisy said that Mark later told her the suspect was Greg, who they call, "Gonner."

Using police databases, Detectives Identified Gonner from CFL gang as SUSPECT, an 18 year old male Hispanic. Detectives assembled a six-photo display card and returned to the hospital. The display was shown to Daisy, who was unable to identify the suspect. The display was then shown to Lidia who was unable to identify the suspect. Detectives then showed the display to Mark who immediately identified the photo of the defendant, SUSPECT, as the suspect. However, he stated that the photo was not a good depiction of Garcia, as his true appearance is different. He was able to identify Garcia because of this incident and the prior contacts with him.

On December 23, 2014, Detectives met with the VICTIM'S family at their home to discuss the investigation. Mark told detectives that he had found SUSPECT on Facebook and showed the page to Daisy. He said Daisy recognized the Facebook photograph of Garcia as the person who shot the VICTIM. Detectives interviewed Daisy who said she saw the suspect on Facebook. Daisy then used her smart phone to pull up Garcia's Facebook page under the name Greg XXX. She showed detectives the photo and said it was the person she saw shoot VICTIM. Detectives know this page to be for Gregory XXX.

Detectives Learned that two of SUSPECT'S fellow CFL gang members, Julio XX, and Gustavo XX, were shot on December 17, 2014, at 89XX Kramerwood Avenue. Julio died from his injuries and Gustavo barely survived. Detectives handling that investigation discovered that after the shooting, Gustavo's cell phone revealed that he called 911, and moments later, his phone called the name, "Gonner."

On December 30, 2014, at 1415 hours, Officers assigned to West Bureau Surveillance Unit, under the direction of Officer Eldon XX, Serial No. 395XX, observed the SUSPECT driving a black 2008 Mercedes Benz, E350, License No. 6EQGXXX, in the area of his residence, 28XX Reynier Avenue. He arrived home and was taken into custody. A search warrant was served at the SUSPECT'S residence. Detectives recovered two loaded firearms hidden under a wooden board in the rear yard. The guns were a .22 caliber rifle and a .25 caliber handgun. The SUSPECT was arrested for 187(a) P.C., Murder, and transported to West Bureau Homicide. Also, two pair of Van's tennis shoes were recovered from the SUSPECT'S bedroom. One pair had soil in the crevasses that detectives noted to have the same consistencies as the soil from where the Van's shoe impressions were recovered at the crime scene.

Detectives interviewed the SUSPECT. Prior to asking for an attorney, the SUSPECT said that he lived with his mother Rosa, his brother, Michael, and Michael's girlfriend, Maribel XX. He said he hasn't been "ok" lately because his best friend, Julio was killed. He denied being a member of CFL gang, nor were his friends members of the gang. He stated that Julio died in his arms. Detectives noted he became visibly upset and angry when he talked about it. He added that Julio was his best friend. During this interview, Skaggs only advised the SUSPECT that he was at the station because of a shooting that occurred on Washington Place, two days after Julio was killed.

Detectives had SUSPECT'S mother, Rosa, come to the police station. Detectives put her in an interview room with SUSPECT. Rosa told SUSPECT that he was being charged with Murder. SUSPECT told Rosa that he had not been okay for a long time. He told Rosa, the police told him his DNA was found on a hat and sweater. SUSPECT stated, "Personally that's not my sweater, the Cincinnati hat was once upon a time mine, once upon a time." "I haven't seen that shit for a long fucking time. I don't even know where I fucking left it, what I have done with it I have no idea." SUSPECT continued to say, "To be honest with you, I didn't do anything, I didn't kill that fucking kid." SUSPECT asked Rosa what he needed to get charged for Murder. SUSPECT stated, "Don't they need a gun?" Rosa started to say, "Yeah, they found...." SUSPECT cut her off saying, "But they don't have a gun." Rosa told SUSPECT that the police found guns behind the garage and he asked what kind of guns.

Detectives asked SUSPECT'S girlfriend, Melissa XX, to come to the police station. She was placed in a interview room with him. SUSPECT told Melissa that he was told he "killed a fucking fool that died in Culver City on Centinella.

Note: Detectives never mentioned to Garcia that the victim was killed or that it occurred on Centinella or in Culver City.

At one point SUSPECT took Melissa's cell phone from her and appeared to be typing something. Melissa was removed from the room and the phone was seized as possible evidence. Melissa gave detectives consent to look at her phone. She showed detectives what SUSPECT typed. "Get ahold ofmyhomies and say Gustavo snitched about Zombie.." Additionally, Detectives found a text thread on Melissa's phone under the name Gregory. On the day of the VICTIM'S murder at 0148 hours, SUSPECT texted, "Yeah Baby. I love you so much, your my everything. I have to do something right now for my best friend that I love. I'd do the same for you, I just hope I find someway tobyi .. Ill hyu when Im safe. Some way to let u know im fine in the morning. I love you so much baby."

Detectives also interviewed Melissa. She said she knew that Julio was killed. She denied knowing any CFL gang members and did not know if the SUSPECT was a CFL gang member. She denied any knowledge of a shooting at Washington Place and Centinella Avenue.

Melissa was finally advised that the SUSPECT was being arrested for murder. She was told the importance of a murder investigation, and if she were to lose a loved one, she would appreciate the police being thorough. Her response was, "yeah, I can't believe you're doing all this for a street boy." Detectives had never advised her any details of the murder, including the age or gender of the victim.

Detectives interviewed the SUSPECT'S brother, Michael. He stated that he has grown distant from his brother. He knows the SUSPECT hangs out with CFL gang members but does not know if he is a member. He knew that the SUSPECT'S friends, Julio and Gustavo were recently shot. He recalled that SUSPECT did not come home for four days after that shooting. He does not know where the SUSPECT was during that time, but that he could have possibly been with his girlfriend, Melissa, at her house. Michael stated that the SUSPECT owns a Chicago Bulls hat, and said it was black with a red log and red button on top. This matches the hat that detectives recovered from the crime scene. Michael was shown a photo of the hat and said the hat belonged to the SUSPECT. Michael was also asked if he knew about a white Cadillac Escalade. He said a couple of days ago there was one parked in his driveway when he arrived home. He went into his house and the SUSPECT was in his bedroom with some of his friends. He did not know who owned the Escalade.

#### **AUTOPSY INFORMATION:**

On December 31, 2014, Los Angeles County Deputy Medical Examiner, Doctor XXX, performed a post mortem examination on the VICTIM. He ascribed the cause of death to be a Gunshot Wound.

#### **FILING INFORMATION:**

On January 2, 2015, this case was submitted to Deputy District Attorney E. XXX who filed (1) count of 187(a)P.C., Murder, on SUSPECT.

#### **CASE STATUS**

Cleared By Arrest

**Appendix 6a: Follow-up Report(s) Template** 

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CORONER CASE NUMBER MULTIPLE

DATE	THIS REP	ORT	DATE OF	RIGINAL RE	PT.	SPE	CIFIC TYPE OF (	DRIGINAL	RPT. (ADW, TFV, EVII	D., ARREST/BU	JRG., ETC.)		RD	С	DR NO.	
VIC	CTIM BOO	IKED TO	) / ARRESTEE (	AS ON OR	IGINAL REP	ORT)			TO HOMICIDE NT / AGE	BKG NO. (	SUPPL. TO ARRE	EST)	W( PERIOD OR	ORK FOLD IG. RPT I		
CAS	E STA			RREST	2	CLEAR	RED OTHER 3 REPORT UNFOUNDED 4 INVEST						TIGATION CONTINUED			
Us	e this se	ection	only to add	or corre	ct info – d	lo not repe	at info from	previou	s reports. Excepti	on: Comple	te entire susp	ect info	if making fi	osition.		
DATE OCCURRED CHANGE TO - ON OR BETWEEN MO DAY YEAR TIME &						<b>&amp;</b> M	O DAY YEAR T		TYPE ORIGINAL REPORT - CHANGE TO RD - CHG. TO				DR NO. CHG.	DR NO. CHG. TO INV DIV CH		
PRO	<b>PERT</b> VALU		ADDITIONA	L LOSS	PARTIAL	RECOVERY	TOTAL REC	OVERY	DELETED FROM				EM NOS. RECO N MULTI. RPTS			
	SEX	DESC	HAIR	EYES	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DOB	AGE	NAME & ADDRESS	S ( OR NAME 8	CHARGE, IF ARF	RESTED)				
S-1		ACTION TAKEN								☐ MI	IU# □ C	II# BKG#				
S-2	SEX	DESC	C HAIR	EYES	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DOB	AGE	NAME & ADDRESS	S ( OR NAME 8	charge, if arf	RESTED)				
3-2			ACTION TAKEN								□MNU# □CII# □BKG					
	SEX	DESC	HAIR	EYES	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DOB	AGE	NAME & ADDRESS	S ( OR NAME 8	CHARGE, IF ARF	RESTED)	))			
S-3									ACTION TAKEN				MM	II# BKG#		
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ALITODOV INICODNA ATIONI.					
AUTOPSY INFORMATION:					
FILING INFORMATION:					
TILING IN ORMATION.					
CASE STATUS:					
WAS PROPERTY BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS REPORT OR INCIDENT?	YES	IF YES, HAS	BEEN COMPLETED?	NO	YES
	ERIAL NO.	REPORTING OFFICER(S)	SERIAL NO.	DIVISION	
DATE & TIME REPRODUCED DIVISION	CLERK	REPORTING OFFICER(S)	SERIAL NO.	DIVISION	



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