



Darren Dake, D-ABMDI, CCI

Darren Dake  
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## Personal Summary

Darren is an ABMDI accredited medicolegal death investigator and an ACFEI certified criminal investigator working with Crawford County Missouri, an author, conference speaker, instructor, and podcast-media producer. He has a background in law enforcement investigations and corporate leadership.

Darren is a certified instructor and criminal investigator with over 30 years experience in the field of law enforcement and death investigations. He holds certification as an instructor for the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators, Missouri Department of Public Safety, the Missouri Sheriff's Association, and the Law Enforcement Training Institute - (Missouri University Columbia). Darren is also the lead instructor and founding director of the Death Investigation Training Academy™, and hosts its online podcast-media program for death investigators.

Darren has been married 33 years and together he and his wife have raised three children and now enjoy spending time with their seven grandchildren.

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## Education and Certifications

- Class A – Missouri Law Enforcement Certification
- East Central College – Union, Mo. Criminal Justice
- Accredited D-ABMDI - American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators
- Certified Criminal Investigator - American College of Forensic Examiners
- Principles of Fire Investigation – University of Missouri
- Certified CVSA examiner
- Advance Interview and Interrogations Training – and instructor
- Certified Jail Procedures and Administration through MSA
- Certified by Missouri S.T.A.T in Child Death Investigations
- Certified in Child Sexual Assault Investigations
- Crime Scene Investigator
- Advanced Investigation School
- Certified in Underwater Search & Rescue and Scene Preservation
- Missouri Department of Public Safety P.O.S.T Certified Instructor
- Missouri Sheriff's Association Instructor
- Missouri LETI Instructor
- Past President Missouri Medical Examiner Coroner Association.
- Hundreds of hours training in Patrol and Criminal Procedures.
- Has personally investigated and consulted in thousands of death investigations

## Specialized Skills

Criminal Investigations  
Teaching and Conference Speaking  
Team Building and Organization  
Scene Management  
Interviews and Interrogations  
Investigation Procedures and Management  
Organizational Management

Podcast-Media Production  
Audio / Video Production  
Digital Magazine Publishing

## Employment History

### *1986-1990 US Army Military Police*

Darren served four years in US Army and ended service as a Corporal-promotable. Darren served as a garrison MP at Ft. Belvoir, VA. Then added the corrections training and served another 2 years working at Ft. Leavenworth, KS.

### *1991-1993 Franklin County Missouri Sheriff's Office*

Served Franklin County Sheriff's office from March, 1991 through August 1993. Darren worked as a jail officer while obtaining his Missouri LE Certification and continued to work in the jail until leaving for another department.

### *1993 – Present Crawford County Missouri Sheriff's Office*

Darren began his career with Crawford County, Missouri in August 1993. He was assigned duties as a patrol officer but was soon promoted to detective and the rank of sergeant. Within a year he was again promoted, this time to the rank of Lieutenant and was assigned the command role over the detective division and jail operations. In June 1998 Darren voluntarily step out of the command role and assumed the rank of sergeant. He worked dual roles as investigators for the Coroner's Office and patrol sergeant for the Sheriff's Office. Darren took a retirement in 2013 but continues to hold a commission with the department and work in a part-time investigative function.

### *1998 - Present: Crawford County Missouri Coroner's Office*

Because of Darren's interest in death investigation he took the position of investigator for the Coroner's Office and helped to establish joint investigation protocols between all

local agencies. Although the position has grown and modified over the past twenty-plus years, He still serves as lead investigator and trainer for this agency.

2013 – Present: *Cuba Missouri Police Department*

Darren is currently working with and consulting for the Cuba, Missouri Police Department . He develops and facilitates advanced investigation training for their officers. Darren also oversees the evidence storage and documentation for the department.

2014 - Present: *Death Investigation Training Academy*

Founding Director and Lead instructor. The Death Investigation Academy provides Medicolegal Death Investigation specific training to Law Enforcement and C/ME investigators. All training is nationally approved by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. (ABMDI)

## Publications

### **Autoerotic Fatalities - an investigator's guide to scene interpretation.**

Published in March 2015. This work is comprised of real information investigators can use to interpret a scene of a suspected autoerotic death. Infused with careful descriptions to help determine what these deaths are — and what they are not. With this book investigators will be equipped with the necessary skills to properly investigate these types of death.

### **Investigating Suicide and Self Harm Death**

Published September 2015. This book is designed to be used in conjunction with the Investigating Suicide and Self Harm Death course through the Death Investigation Training

Academy. This publication can be used as a stand alone reference, however this is not an all inclusive work on this topic. This course is an advanced course in the investigation of suicide and self harm death. The course is specifically designed for patrol officers and investigators who have the duties of responding to and/ or investigating death. The course assumes the students basic understanding of a crime scene and basic evidence collection methods. It goes beyond the preliminary death scene and targets what suicide deaths are and what they are not. It also gives insight into the mental aspect of suicide and self harm behaviors.

### **Interview and Interrogations-Getting information you want**

Published March 2016. A successful interrogation must be well planned, and investigator attitudes must be right from the start. Suspects will shut down and lawyer up fast when they are disrespected or frightened. This book will systematically walk the student through the process of gathering vital information from anyone who may have knowledge. Areas specifically covered are; the unique approach to take with family, interviewing children, conducting an area canvass, gaining vital medical information, and talking with victims of sexual assaults. The suspect interrogation portion will teach students how to get confessions. What approach to use and how to plan your interrogation. A portion of this book will focus directly on gaining confessions from sexual abuse and molestation offenders. The information and techniques taught in this book are not theories but actual steps successfully being used by hundreds of investigators across the country; and has been successfully used by the author for over 20 years.

### **C.O.D.E Living Healthy, Happy, and Whole Submerged in Tragedy, Trauma, and Death**

Published January 2018. Over time, the slippery tentacles of depression, anxiety, PTSD, and Secondary Traumatic Stress Disorder, a/k/a Compassion Fatigue, starts to grip the minds, bodies, and souls of those who serve. 911 Operators, police, fire, EMS, death investigators, coroners, and others need to

know they are not alone. C.O.D.E. addresses this reality in a real, raw, and relevant way, telling stories inspired by true events and authentic cases. Powerful tips at the end of each chapter offer hope, encouragement, and healing methods — real help for the hurting people who give their all.

## Professional Affiliations

Missouri Sheriff's Association MSA  
Missouri Coroner and Medical Examiner Association (MCMEA)  
International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiner  
Society of Medicolegal Death Investigators (SOMDI)  
American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI)  
Church of God, TN – Credentialed

## Achievements

- Implemented the first investigation division for Crawford County
- Past President Missouri Medical Examiner Coroner Association
- Designed Coroner Talk™ a podcast for Death Investigators
- Married 33 years to High School Sweet Heart
- Founder and Publisher of the Death Investigator Magazine

## Recommendation Statements

*“in developing a criminal investigation division for our department, there was no question Darren was the one to lead it. Darren accomplished this task in an efficient and exemplary manner”* Major Jim Squires Retired

*“Darren is a dynamic and charismatic instructor, he holds the classrooms attention, encourages and draws in participation from attendees successfully. I would personally recommend Darren as an instructor/ speaker to any organization”*

Sgt. Jessie Venable, Retired Franklin County Missouri – Conference Coordinator MDSA

*“I personally give my recommendation to Darren Dake. Darren is highly skilled in the area of organization, management, team building, and facilitating staff needs and training. Darren possess' a quality of leadership needed today. His teaching style is relevant to today's issues , keeping*

*participants alert and able to benefit for the topic being taught.” Roger Taber –*

*“Darren is a valuable presence and gives an invaluable contribution to any conference or group gathering. He is a wonderful and knowledgeable speaker” The Colorado Coroners Association*