

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE DIRECTIVE

OPS-087, LEAD HOMICIDE CERTIFICATIONS

RESCINDS: OPS-087, 2022-163, revised 03-10-2022	REVISED: 08-28-2025 2025-020
RELATED DOCUMENTS: OPS-042, OPS-079, OPS-089	RELATED CALEA STANDARDS (6th Edition): 26.3.1, 33.6.1, 42.1.4, 42.1.5, 42.2.2

I. POLICY

The Illinois State Police (ISP) shall provide training in death and homicide investigation for ISP officers while utilizing a victim-centered, trauma-informed investigative (VCTII) approach.

II. AUTHORITY

20 ILCS 2605/2605-51, Article 2605 of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois, hereinafter cited as the Illinois State Police Law.

III. DEFINITIONS

III.A. Death Investigation – the investigation of a sudden, violent, or unexpected death, or a death with a suspicious, obscure, mysterious, or otherwise unexplained circumstance, or of a death unattended by a physician.

III.B. Homicide Investigation – the investigation of a death resulting from the act of another person.

III.C. Lead Homicide Certification (LHC) – a certification which allows ISP officers to be the lead investigator on death or homicide investigations. The LHC is valid for four years, at which time an officer will be required to resubmit an application to maintain their LHC certification to the Director for approval.

III.D. Victim-Centered, Trauma-Informed Investigation (VCTII) – an investigative approach that acknowledges the impact of trauma and prioritizes the unique needs and experiences of individual crime victims focused on minimizing retraumatization and promoting empowerment, healing, and justice.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

IV.A. The Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) and the Division of Internal Investigations (DII) will provide training to ensure all officers who are required to engage in death and/or homicide investigations are trained to meet the requirements outlined in 20 ILCS 2605/2605-51, the Illinois State Police Law.

IV.B. Minimum requirements for LHC:

IV.B.1. Be a sworn ISP officer.

IV.B.2. Have completed the ISP New Agents School (Formerly Basic Investigators Course (BIC)) or an Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) approved LHC training course.

IV.B.3. Have no discipline related to credibility or Giglio issues.

IV.C. Denial of Lead Homicide Certification by work unit Commander

If the officers fail to achieve or meet the requirements outlined in IV.B. of this directive, the LHC Certification will be denied by the work unit Commander.

IV.D. Lead Homicide Certification

IV.D.1. Once an officer has met the minimum requirements as outlined in IV.B. of this directive, the officer's supervisor will complete the LHC Initial Application Form, ISP 9-082, and forward it through their division's chain-of-command to the Director's office for final approval.

- IV.D.2. Only ISP officers who successfully complete the training and receive Lead Homicide Investigation Certification may be assigned as a lead investigator on death and homicide investigations. Satisfactory completion of this training shall be evidenced by a certificate and/or card issued to the officer signed by the Director.
- IV.D.3. The LHC is valid for four years at which time officers are required to recertify.
- IV.E. Lead Homicide Recertification Process
 - IV.E.1. LHC officers must obtain a minimum of 32 hours of specific homicide training within the preceding four-year period. LHC officers will submit application through their chain-of-command to the Director's Office, on the LHC Recertification Application Form, ISP 9-083.
 - IV.E.1.a. LHC officers will attend at least eight hours of LHC specific homicide training annually to meet the 32 hours of specific homicide training mandate outlined in IV.E.1. of this directive.
 - IV.E.1.b. If the officer fails to obtain the eight hours of specific homicide training annually and the officer or work unit Commander has articulable reasons on why the training wasn't obtained, the officer will then be required to obtain the delinquent training within the next calendar-year in addition to the next calendar-year's required LHC training.
 - IV.E.1.c. Zone Commanders may use discretionary override to grant officers eight hours of continuing educational credit towards the 32-hour mandate if the officer has participated or been the lead investigator on six or more homicide or death investigations within the four-year recertification period.
 - IV.E.2. Officers will maintain a log of their completed homicide training on the LHC Training Log Form, ISP 9-084, to submit along with the LHC Recertification Form.
 - IV.E.3. It is the responsibility of the Lead Homicide Investigator to maintain their training file for presentation to their supervisor for the purpose of recertification. It is the responsibility of the Lead Homicide Investigator's work unit Commander to certify the training file submitted to ensure it is accurate and eligible for recertification. The Lead Homicide Investigator's certification shall be extended by four years upon signature of the Director.
 - IV.E.4. A copy of the LHC will also be kept in the investigative unit officer's personnel file.
- IV.F. Lead Homicide Certification Records
 - DCI and DII will:
 - IV.F.1. Ensure training records are entered into the Department's training record system.
 - IV.F.2. Maintain a statewide list of currently certified Lead Homicide Officers within their division.
 - IV.F.3. Provide LHC officers within their division with notification of impending expirations.
 - IV.F.4. Archive and maintain recertification certificates of LHC officers signed by the Director within their division.

| Indicates new or revised items.

-End of Directive-