



7 STEP CRIME SCENE PROCESSING

1. Establish the Dimensions & Identify Potential Safety / Health Hazards

- Ensure the crime scene perimeter has been appropriately determined
- Evaluate the scene for potential safety and health hazards and take appropriate action

2. Establish Security

- Ensure the scene has been secured utilizing crime scene tape, rope, barriers, etc.
- Ensure a crime scene sign in/out log is established maintaining ONE point for entry/exit

3. Plan and Communicate

- Communicate with Investigators -they handle interviews and neighborhood canvass
- Plan a strategy
- Consider search warrant needs or consent to search
- Ask yourself “Who has a right to privacy?” (in the car, house, business)
- Re-evaluate steps One (1) and Two (2)

4. Evaluate “Probative” Value of the scene (PRIMARY SURVEY)

- Conduct a **WALK THRU** to determine crime scene elements; approach, entry, exit, offense.
- Locate obvious items of physical evidence (will you put a tent marker down?)
- Form a hypothesis of events based upon the *physical* evidence
- Plan a crime scene processing strategy - How will you tell the story in pictures?
- Re-evaluate step Three (3)

(OVER)

5. Document and Process the Scene(s) and Item(s)

- Document the overall scene before processing using **photography, notes, and sketching**
- One set of photos of the scene as you found it, THEN put down all of your tent markers and photograph the tent markers in an organized manner.
- Process the scene and/or items to search for fingerprints/footwear/biology/etc.

6. Final Detailed Examination of the Scene (SECONDARY SURVEY) “DIG”

- Examine the scene(s) and/or items in detail for potential evidence (flip mattress/garbage cans/washing machine/ drawers/cabinets
- Put down additional tent markers and photograph the new tent markers

7. Recover and Preserve the Evidence

- Recover Potential Evidence
- Package the evidence
- Establish a chain of custody for the recovered item(s)
- Conduct a final survey with a Supervisor/Detective or other CSI for a second set of eyes.