



## APPENDIX C

### INVESTIGATIONS

#### Minding Your Manners

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Choose the Best Manner of Death for the Cause and Circumstance as Stated:

Choices: Homicide (H), Suicide (S), Accident (A),  
Natural (N), Undetermined (U)

- Intentional lethal drive-by teenage shooting of another teenager.
- Stray bullet from teenage drive-by shooting that kills an infant at home in bed.
- Lethal shaken baby brain injury of an infant by its mother who is stressed out.
- Lethal shaken baby brain injury of an infant by its inebriated mother.
- Lethal shaken baby brain injury of an infant by its mentally retarded mother.
- Drunk driver motor vehicle accident where a child appropriately in a school cross walk is killed.
- Drunk driver motor vehicle accident where a child who unexpectedly darts into the street from between cars is killed.
- Sober competent driver motor vehicle accident where a child appropriately in a school cross walk is killed.
- Sober competent driver motor vehicle accident where a child who unexpectedly darts into the street from between cars is killed.
- An unrestrained infant dies in a car crash from head trauma received by hitting the dash board.
- School age child receives a lethal head injury from a <sup>s</sup>pontaneous fall off a bicycle without a helmet.

- School age child receives a lethal head injury from a spontaneous fall off a bicycle with a helmet.
- A truly unexpected lightening strike causes the death of a school age child while on a playground during a partly cloudy day.
- A teenager playing golf during an active thunderstorm is hit and killed by lightening.
- A poorly constructed roof collapses during a small earthquake killing an infant.
- A well constructed roof collapses during a heavy earthquake killing an *infant*
- A depressed teenager kills himself at home with a hand gun - no suicide note.
- A depressed teenager kills himself at home with a hand gun - suicide note present.
- A teenager kills himself while cleaning a gun.
- A teenager while cleaning a gun *kills* his companion.
- A young school age child *kills* his sister while he is playing with a gun.
- A young schoolage child points and shoots a gun at his companion killing him.
- A teenager *kills* himself while playing Russian roulette.
- A teenager while playing Russian roulette with a partner *kills* his partner.
- A drunk teenager *kills* himself in a motor vehicle accident by running his car into a tree at high speed.
- A depressed teenager kills himself in a motor vehicle accident by running his car into a tree at high speed.
- A depressed teenager kills himself in a motor vehicle accident by running his car into a tree at *high* speed with a suicide note found.
- A drunk teenager drowns in a lake late at night at a beach beer party.
- An experienced teenage swimmer drowns while attempting to cross a large lake alone for exercise.
- A reckless downhill skiing teenager runs into a tree and kills himself.
- A reckless downhill skiing teenager runs into and kills another safe teenage skier.
- An unexpected freak avalanche kills a teenager skiing appropriately and safely inbound.
- A left alone toddler drowns in a bath tub while its mother answers the phone.
- A left alone toddler drowns in a bath tub while its mother is drunk.
- A left alone toddler drowns in a bath tub while its mother runs to the store.
- A near dead interrupted SIDS infant is taken off life support and given a lethal dose of morphine for agonal gasping respirations in the hospital.

- A precarious severely cardiopulmonary compromised infant dies following an event of undetected ventilator disconnection in the hospital.
- A smoking teenage alcoholic unmarried poor ethnic mother brings in a cold stiff infant who died in the prone position where a full investigation reveals SIDS.
- A precarious multiorgan failure infant dies in the hospital following an event of mistakenly administered medication.
- A terminal school age cancer patient dies immediately after a routinely administered heavy dose of narcotic pain medicine.
- A vegetative brain injured teenager from shaken baby at age 3 months dies of pneumonia at age 15 years.
- An immunodeficient FAS infant dies of infection.

### *Minding Your Manners for Infant and Child Death*

This scheme is a proposed model for consistency in the differentiation of homicide or suicide deaths from accidental deaths in the certification of *non-natural* death. Pick the term which best describes the circumstances of the case.

Homicide - man inflicted to man; Suicide - man inflicted to self

#### Homicide vs Accident

<b>Term</b>	<b>Manner</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Preventable</b>
Intentional	Definite homicide	Teenage drive by shooting	Yes
Voluntarily inflicted	Probable homicide	Shaken baby lethal brain injury	Yes
Involuntarily inflicted (with negligence)	Homicide vs Accident by local convention (favor homicide)	Drunk driver runs down a child	Yes
Unintentional	Probable accident	Head injury from fall off a bicycle	Probably
Non-inflicted	Definite accident	Unexpected lightning strike causing death	No

## Suicide vs Accident

<b>Term</b>	<b>Manner</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Preventable</b>
Intentional	Definite suicide	Teenage self inflicted gunshot with suicide note	Yes
Voluntarily self inflicted	Probable suicide	Teenage Russian roulette	Yes
Involuntarily self inflicted (with negligence)	Suicide or accident by local convention (favor suicide)	Drunk teenager drowns in a lake	Yes
Unintentional	Probable accident	Teenager skiing head trauma death	Probably
Non-inflicted.	Definite accident	Avalanche death in open and legal ski terrain	No

Conclusion: Most injury deaths are preventable and relate to alterable human behavior and environmental factors. True "accidents" are rare and by definition probably are non-preventable. More insight into the alterable human and environmental factors behind such "accidents" is needed.

Homicide and suicide designated deaths are under reported and probably misclassified as accidents.