



# ASSOCIATES IN FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS, LLC

*A Rocky Mountain West Agency ~ Licensed, Bonded and Insured*

*Expert Consultants and Legal Investigators  
Personal Injury, Negligence & Death*

Civil • Criminal • Probate

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Cheyenne WY - PI & Security  
License No. OL-15-31146

Dean A. Beers, CLI, CCDI  
Karen S. Beers, BSW, CCDI

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**Karen S. Beers, BSW, CCDI**  
**Legal Investigator and Subject Matter Expert Consultant**  
**Board Certified Criminal Defense Investigator**  
**Certified Death Investigator**

**Curriculum Vitae and Experience as of 10/05/2014**

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**SYNOPSIS OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE**

- Joined the agency in 1996
- Bachelor of Science, Social Work (BSW) from Colorado State University 2003 (Magna Cum Laude). In 1998 she earned her Associates in Science degree.
- Certified Criminal Defense Investigator (CCDI) by Criminal Defense Investigation Training Council
- Certified in Medicolegal Death Investigations by Larimer County Medical Examiner's Office. Such training exceeds that of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators, which is reserved only for death investigators employed by a government agency.
- Subject Matter Expert consultations of death since 2010.

Karen joined the agency in 1996. Her background, education and experience with victim advocacy and counseling are valuable assets in working with families and victims of traumatic events.

As a Medicolegal Death Investigator, Karen was the responding primary or secondary investigator of all manners of deaths and incidents. Karen's background includes training, internship and part-time employment under the direction of three Forensic Pathologists. From 2004-2006 she investigated and assisted with numerous death cases and scenes, and materially assisted with forensic autopsies.

Following graduation from Colorado State University was an extensive internship at a youth counseling and rehabilitation facility. Karen is a member of the Inner Circle of Investigators, Criminal Defense Investigations Training Council, and National Defender Investigators Association. She has been professionally published multiple times and with Dean she co-developed 'Death Investigation for Professional Investigators', a distance learning continuing education course.

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### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Returned to legal investigation - Administration and Investigation – 09/2008 to Present
- Advocacy and Counseling - 07/2003 to Present
- Deputy Coroner / Medicolegal Death Investigator (training, administrative and investigations) Larimer County Medical Examiner's Office - 12/2004 to 06/2006
- Forensic Autopsy Assistant - 01/2005 to 06/2006  
Larimer County Medical Examiner's Office and Colorado Pathology Associates
- Forensic Investigators of Colorado, LLC - 1996 to 2005
- Juvenile Advocacy Counselor (Turning Point) - 07/2003 to 01/2004

### **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

- Inner Circle of Investigators Conference, 09/2014
- National Institute of Justice – Bloodstain Documentation and Collection Methods, 01/2014
- NCISS 2013 Conference – General Investigations, 09/2013
- Professional Private Investigators Association of Colorado Conference – General Investigations, 10/2013
- NCISS 2013 Conference – General Investigations, 09/2012
- TALI – general investigations, ethics and protocols, privacy and investigators, 02/2013
- PPIAC – death investigations, firearms protocols, background investigations, 09/2012
- Wyoming Coroners Association – Basic and Advanced Death Investigation Principles; POST approved instructor, 11/2012
- NCISS 2012 Conference – General Investigations, 09/2012
- Florida Physician Cause of Death – continued medical education, 02/2012
- Medicolegal Death Investigator (Larimer County Medical Examiner's Office) - 12/2004 to 06/2006
- Reserve Training Program and Certification
- Restorative Group Conference Facilitation - 05/2004
- Colorado State University (Bachelors in Social Work) – 09/2001 to 12/2003  
Graduated Magna Cum Laude and Honor Society Phi Kappa Phi
- Supplemental Training in De-escalation, Criminal Thinking, Care-Frontation, Substance Abuse and Recovery, Ethics and Professionalism, Five-minute Intervention - 08/2003
- Reid Techniques of Interviewing and Interrogation - 07/2003
- Front Range Community College (Associates degree) - 05/1998 with honors

### **SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT CONSULTATIONS**

*Actively reviews and assists with all consultation cases presented to the agency. Presently consulting on death and injury causation, including multiple homicides in multiple states involving crime scene investigation and pattern injury analysis, and multiple forensic investigative protocols. The following is public information is not all-inclusive.*

- The Mysterious Death of Phoenix Police Sergeant Sean Drenth (Phoenix AZ – consultant to families legal team to reopen investigation, amend Cause and Manner of Death, and restore survivor benefits to spouse and children)

### **ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

- Inner Circle of Investigators



- Criminal Defense Investigation Training Council
- National Defender Investigators Association

#### **PROFESSIONAL / EXPERT CONSULTING RELATIONSHIPS**

- Stephen J. Cina, MD (Forensic Pathologist)
- Forensic Toxicology consultations available

#### **CERTIFICATIONS**

- Certified Criminal Defense Investigator (Criminal Defense Investigation Training Council), 08/2011
- Certified in Medicolegal Death Investigations (Larimer County Medical Examiner)

#### **PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES & WHITE PAPERS AND COURSE DEVELOPMENT**

- 'Investigate Innocence Cases with Caution'; PI Now, 05/2014
- 'PI Pearls, Perils and Pitfalls'; co-author for PursuitMag.com, 04/2014
- A Survivors' Guide to Understanding Death Investigations (co-author, self-published 01/2014 CreateSpace)
- Psychological Autopsies in Equivocal Death Investigations and Suicide Cases; co-author for PI Now, 01/2014
- The Question of Suicide – Equivocal Death Investigations; co-author for PI Now, 09/2013
- Professional Locate Investigations (co-author revised 04/2013, CreateSpace); also a lecture series
- The Question of Death – Equivocal Death Investigations; co-author for open publication, 02/2013
- Understanding Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (CALI Newsletter, 12/2012)
- False Confessions and Accusations (PursuitMag.com, Feb 2012)
- Understanding Suicide and Its Prevention – Equivocal Death Investigations (PursuitMag.com 12/2011, CALI Newsletter 12/2012)
- The Basics of an Autopsy Report (PI Magazine 11/2011)
- Gangs – The Ties That Bind (08/2010)
- Suicide – One of the Toughest Deaths to Understand (09/2010)
- Medicolegal Death Investigation (www.MedicolegalDeathInvestigations.com and 8hr Continuing Education, online – www.PIEducation.com); also a lecture series