

Titles:

Segment 1: Medical Issues in Abuse/Neglect Cases: Bruising and Medications

Segment 2: Medical Issues in Abuse/Neglect Cases: Pressure Ulcers

Segment 3: Medical Issues in Abuse/Neglect Cases: Strangulation and Suffocation

Length:

Segment 1: approximately 31 minutes

Segment 2: approximately 31 minutes

Segment 3: approximately 21 minutes

Learning Objectives:

Segment 1:

Participants will be able to:

1. Learn how to distinguish bruises caused by abuse from other forms of causation
2. Understand the importance of reviewing medications in investigating allegations

Segment 2:

1. Understand the causes of pressure ulcers
2. Describe how to document pressure ulcers in abuse and neglect cases

Segment 3:

1. Recognize that strangulation and suffocation occur in later life
2. Describe common signs and symptoms of strangulation and suffocation
3. Understand the serious risks associated with these types of assaults

Description:

Law enforcement investigating cases of abuse of older adults and adults with disabilities face a variety of challenges. Distinguishing abuse and neglect injuries from other causation can be difficult. Pressure ulcers, often present in neglect cases, may not be preventable even with good care so understanding what to look for in neglect cases may not be known to law enforcement. Injuries such as those related to strangulation may be overlooked in older adults and adults with disabilities, so victim accounts are not believed. These sessions will provide basic information helpful in investigations that involve these conditions. Video case studies will be included.

Presenter Information:

Candace Heisler, JD. Served as an Assistant District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco for 25 years. She headed the unit that handled elder abuse and domestic violence cases for 10 years and has developed and delivered training for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and Adult Protective Services for over 20 years. She was an instructor for the California Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) and the San Francisco Police Academy for more than 10 years.

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Education:

JD, University of California, Hastings College of the Law, San Francisco
BA, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Biographical Statement:

Candace J. Heisler, J.D., served as an Assistant District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco for over 25 years. During this time, she was the head of Domestic Violence Unit, which handled both domestic violence and elder abuse cases, as well as the Charging, Misdemeanor, and Preliminary Hearing Units. She was an Adjunct Professor at Hastings College of the Law for more than 20 years. She now teaches a graduate course at Virginia Tech on ethics and aging.

Ms. Heisler has written for and trained a variety of professionals about elder abuse, domestic violence, and the criminal justice system, including work sponsored by the American Bar Association, Futures Without Violence, the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Office on Violence Against Women, and the Judicial Council of California. She frequently presents at the annual National Adult Protective Services Association and other state Adult Protective Services (APS) conferences on related topics. Ms. Heisler has authored several curricula on interviewing alleged perpetrators, addressing undue influence, and working with the criminal justice system for APS Professionals.

Publications include “Elder Abuse Detection and Intervention: A Collaborative Approach”; “Elder Abuse” in *Victims of Crime*; “Elder Abuse Forensics: The Intersection of Law and Science” in *Elder Abuse: Research, Practice and Policy*; and “Ethics and Vulnerable Elders: The Quest for Individual Rights and a Just Society”.

Awards include: California Governor’s Victim Services Award; San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women Leadership Award; California Crime Victims United “Prosecutor of the Year” Award; California District Attorneys Career Achievement Award; Robert Presley Institute of Criminal Investigation Excellence in Instruction Award; the National College of District Attorneys’ Distinguished Faculty Award; the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) “Rosalie Wolf Award”, and Hastings College of the Law "Alumna of the Year".

She teaches for and consults with a wide variety of governmental, educational, and private entities.