



Roll Call Training Bulletin

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Fentanyl Overdoses

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The Sacramento County Coroner's Office (SCCO) reports that since 2019, there have been more than 1,100 fentanyl-related deaths in Sacramento County. There have been instances where arrests and prosecutions for murder have occurred against those accused of selling fentanyl to the deceased. Like many death investigations, these types of cases can be challenging to investigate and difficult to prosecute. The region has established the Sacramento Fentanyl Overdose Resolution Team (FORT) to improve the investigative response time, support, resources, guidance, and leadership with fentanyl overdose cases.

FORT is comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement partners working collaboratively for investigation and prosecution of fentanyl overdose cases. The SCCO will be the initial point of contact for cases that potentially meet the FORT criteria to investigate. The FORT will evaluate the circumstances of SCCO referred cases and may request additional follow-up by the Sacramento Police Department's (SPD) Special Investigations Unit (SIU). Any SIU callouts related to fentanyl overdoses should be initiated by FORT.

SPD employees shall continue to follow the guidance of RCTB 120 (Response to Calls Involving Deceased Individuals) and GO 533.03 (Dead Human Bodies [currently in revision]). The establishment of the FORT shall not change our response to these calls. Officers should keep in mind that a fentanyl overdose case may involve criminal conduct and officers should complete thorough investigations.

In order for SPD to conduct further investigative follow-up of a fentanyl overdose death, all the following shall be present on scene:

1. Juvenile victim under the age of 18 years old.
2. Functioning and accessible electronic communication device (e.g., cell phone, smartphone, laptop computer, tablet computer, etc.).
3. Cooperative family, friends, or witnesses.
4. Evidence of fentanyl or opioid use or recent use to include, but not limited to:
 - a. The presence of narcotic paraphernalia, witness statements, admissions, or a trained professionals' observation of respiratory depression (e.g., gurgling, or rattling noise during breathing) or foaming at the mouth.

Potential fentanyl overdose deaths in which only the Sacramento Fire Department and SCCO respond, SCCO deputy coroners shall be responsible for the initial investigation to include the collection of evidence and notification to the FORT as applicable. SPD personnel may be requested to provide scene security if SIU is required to respond.