

AMERICAN BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATORS  
**Registry Certification Application Process**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators Registry examination is:

- To encourage adherence to high standards of professional practice and ethical conduct when performing medicolegal death investigations.
- To recognize qualified individuals who have voluntarily applied for basic and advanced levels of professional certification.
- To grant and issue certificates to individuals who have demonstrated their mastery of investigational techniques and who have successfully completed rigorous examination of their knowledge and skills in the field of medicolegal death investigation.

The Registry certification is the initial certification that provides official recognition that an individual has acquired basic knowledge and demonstrated proficiency in the standards of practice necessary to properly conduct a competent, thorough medicolegal death investigation.

**Eligibility**

In order to apply for Registry Certification you must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be at least eighteen years of age at time of application.
2. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
3. Must currently be employed in a Medical Examiner or Coroner office or equivalent federal authority with the job responsibility to "conduct death scene investigations" or supervise such investigations at time of application and examination.
4. Must meet 640 points of the following categories:
  - Employment
    1. Full/Part time or on call employment
  - Education
  - Advanced Degree
  - Viewing Forensic Autopsies

*DISCLAIMER: Currently, the ABMDI does not endorse any program that claims to fulfill the requirements of certification or prepare an individual for the certification exam.*

**Administration of Examinations**

Applicants will be notified when they are able to schedule their examination and provided the required documentation at that time. Any testing requests made prior to being approved to sit for the examination is considered invalid. Examinations are proctored at a college or university testing center and the required paperwork must be submitted to the ABMDI office at least 21 days prior to the examination date.

**General Information**

The required documentation will be sent to the applicant once an application request form is received in the ABMDI office or an application is started electronically through the ABMDI website.

The official mailing address of the ABMDI is:

ABMDI  
10104 Senate Drive, Suite 241  
Lanham, MD 20706

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**Documentation Requirements of Point System**

<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>Minimum Points Required: 384</b>	<b>Maximum Points Accepted: 640</b>	<b>REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION</b>
<b>Full/Part Time Employment</b>			Notarized Employment Verification Form- Full/Part Time
<b>On Call Employment (must be within five years of application submission)</b>			Notarized Employment Verification Form
<b>Conversion for on call hours:</b>			Case Log (downloaded from ABMDI website)
<b>Investigation of natural death, no scene response= 1 point</b>			
<b>Investigation of non-natural death, no scene response= 2.5 points</b>			
<b>Investigation of death with scene response= 5 points</b>			
<b>Secondary Investigator on scene= 2.5 points (maximum of 100 points allowed)</b>			
<b>On call hour- .25 points (maximum of 100 points allowed)</b>			

<b>EDUCATION/TRAINING</b>	<b>Maximum Points Accepted: 40</b>	<b>REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION</b>
<b>Conversion for education training: One educational hour= 1 point</b>		Certificate/Transcript
<b>One educational quarter= 10 points</b>		Education/ Training Submission Form
<b>One educational semester= 15 points</b>		

\*The ABMDI accepts education/training that is approved by the American Medical Association (AMA), American Nursing Association (ANA), American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), College of American Pathologists (CAP), Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), International Association for Continuing Education (IACET), Pennsylvania Coroner's Education Board, Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST or state equivalent), US Department of Homeland Security and post-secondary institutions recognized by national educational accrediting agencies.

**\*ALL COURSES MUST BE RELEVANT TO MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION.**

\*Teaching/instructional hours do not count towards the point system.

\*If you are claiming points for an advanced degree, you may not use any of the courses used toward that degree for points.

<b>ADVANCED DEGREE</b>	<b>Maximum Points Accepted: 200</b>	<b>REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION</b>
<b>Associates Degree= 50 points</b>		Copy of degree/ letter from registrar's office
<b>Bachelor's Degree= 100 points</b>		Degree Submission Form
<b>Master's Degree= 150 points</b>		
<b>PhD= 200 points</b>		
<b>MD= 200 points</b>		

\*Points only granted for highest level of degree obtained.

\*If you are claiming a degree, you cannot claim the courses within the degree program under Education/Training.

<b>VIEWING FORENSIC AUTOPSIES</b>	<b>Maximum Points Accepted: 64</b>	<b>REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION</b>
<b>One hour of viewing a forensic autopsy= 1 point (must be within five years of application submission)</b>		Signed Autopsy Viewing Log

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

1. Submit the Application Request Form or apply online at [ABMDI.org](http://ABMDI.org).
2. Complete the Registry Application Form with the Code of Ethics and Conduct on the back.
3. Complete the required documentation for experience based on the type of points you are submitting. This must include a notarized Employment Verification form.
4. Have a professional reference complete the Professional Reference Form and submit it to the ABMDI office.
5. Complete the Performance Training Guidebook Checklist, the back cover of the guidebook. There must be initials by all 52 tasks and must be notarized.
6. Complete the Performance Training Guidebook Sign-Off form. This contains the information of who completed your Guidebook Checklist and must be notarized.
7. Mail completed application with all supporting documentation to:

ABMDI  
10104 Senate Drive, Suite 241  
Lanham, MD 20706

Questions? Contact 410-807-3007 or [info@abmdi.us](mailto:info@abmdi.us).