



## National Crisis Intervention Training Institute

### Psychological Autopsy Family Worksheet

#### INTRODUCTION

*(Please Read Carefully)*

Dear Parent(s), Guardian(s), and/or Grieving Family Member(s):

You, or a designated family member, have requested the services of our Psychological Autopsy Team. **Our job is to better help you understand your deceased loved one's state of mind in the weeks, days, and hours leading up to his/her death, and to, if at all possible, help you find answers to haunting questions that you may be having.** Unlike most psychological autopsy protocols, our approach is multi-disciplinary in nature, allowing different specialized professional perspectives to examine the data, and to contribute to a more holistic, complete, honest, and revealing picture.

The outcome and actual process of our investigative approach is designed to provide the following:

- Answers to the haunting, damning questions which often plague surviving family members.
- A holistic picture of your deceased loved one's psychological, emotional, cognitive, physical, familial, social, and spiritual conditions which may have led up to his/her death.
- A gathering, organization, and processing of relevant information and resulting findings, and determination as to how they may apply to the other clinical or legal investigations into the circumstances of your deceased loved one's death, by law enforcement, the medical examiner's office, the district or state attorney's office, et cetera.
- The benefit of having the details and circumstances, as well as the reports from the above-mentioned agencies, examined and scrutinized by professionals from several different fields of expertise.
- Tools and information which will hopefully assist you in grieving, mourning, and healing.
- An assessment of possible or probable problems and obstacles to healing which you may be facing in upcoming weeks, months, and years, with recommendations regarding support services and other available resources at your disposal.
- An assurance that your concerns are not being ignored, and that you are not alone.

**It is also designed to be therapeutic and healing in nature, while not interfering with, or compromising the integrity and effectiveness of any official investigation of the circumstances of your loved one's death.** Any or all of the following types of information will be gathered during the investigation, and will be interpreted, evaluated, synthesized, and applied to your child's case by our multi-disciplinary team:

- Identifying demographic information, both past and present.
- All available investigative reports by law enforcement, forensic lab, and any civilian investigative businesses and/or organizations.
- Information regarding the significant events leading up to, and contemporaneous to your deceased loved one's death, including those considered directly applicable to his/her frame of mind, as well as collateral social and familial events which may have had primary or secondary impact upon his/her life, or the lives of significant others.
- Detailed information regarding your deceased loved one's family history, marriages and other significant relationships, past and present illnesses, injury history, medical history, mental health history, credit and financial histories, and evidence of prior history of self-injurious thoughts, ideations, gestures, and/or attempts.
- Detailed information about any other family members, close friends, or significant others who have attempted suicide, or have died as a result of suicide or homicide.
- Evidence of your deceased loved one's "thought life:" his/her fantasies, dreams, thoughts, delusions, fears, hopes, plans, et cetera.
- Recorded artifacts such as journals, blogs, financial records, correspondences, diaries, web pages, entries via social network websites such as Facebook, MySpace, et cetera.
- Information regarding your deceased loved one's known sexual history.
- Evidence of any recent or historical changes in eating habits, weight gain or loss, hobbies, employment, or other extracurricular activities, and other life routines.
- Any noted changes in your deceased loved one's circle of friends and social contacts, as well as information regarding sustained friends, associates, romantic or sexual partners, confidants, et cetera.
- Information about your deceased loved one's known methods of coping with stress, escape-based avoidance methods such as substance abuse, running away, et cetera.
- Recent stressors, and difficulties (e.g. legal, social, financial, romantic, et cetera).
- Any circumstantial or other collateral evidence which may help to determine intention on the part of your deceased loved one.
- Examination of death-inducing methodology, including a lethality risk assessment, examination of nomenclature of the mode and instrument(s) of death, et cetera.
- Assessment of family members' and significant others' reaction to the decedent's death, at the point of notification, and afterward.
- Statements and evidentiary reports of other assigned investigative and clinical professionals.
- Interviews with clinicians and other helping professionals who attended to your deceased loved one prior to death (such as counselors, therapists, social workers, teachers, tutors, mentors, et cetera).

Obviously, the gathered information may be sensitive, private, surprising, or even shocking to you. **It is very common for family members to feel the need to be protective of the memory of their deceased loved one, and/or to protect the reputation and privacy of the family.** For that reason, they may sometimes be tempted to withhold or alter information or evidence. **First of all, we want to assure you that THE UTMOST DISCRETION AND CARE is taken to protect the INTEGRITY, PRIVACY, AND CONFIDENTIALITY of you, your family members, and the memory of your deceased loved one.**

We also want to assure you that we will be exceptionally careful to make sure that **you will receive all the support and help that you need to process the discovered information, as well as the final outcome findings of our investigation.** False, misleading, partial, or withheld information may result in erroneous findings, as well as improper recommendations. For those reasons, **we implore you to be as open, honest, candid, and complete as possible in providing the requested information.** To us, there is no such thing as too much information, as long as it is potentially or actually relevant to our investigative inquiry.

This information will assist us in making some preliminary determinations, in order to appropriately assign relevant personnel to your case, as well as to streamline the process as much as possible, and to formulate key interview questions. **It is by no means complete. It is only a collection of beginning reference information for us. More will be learned from the actual interviews that we conduct with you, other family members, friends, involved professionals, witnesses, et cetera.**

While the questionnaire is only the beginning of our investigative inquiry, you will no doubt find its completion to be a time and effort-consuming process, which may sometimes be emotionally, psychologically, cognitively, and spiritually difficult at times. **We ask you to take your time in completing the following questionnaire / worksheet. Once you have completed it, set it down in a private, secure place, then go back to it in a day or so, re-read what you have written, and see if there is anything you would like to add or amend.** Please feel free to contact us at any point of the documentation process, if you require assistance in completing any or all sections, and/or in clarifying your responses. On behalf of our team, thank you for your cooperation in providing this information, which we are confident will prove to be an invaluable tool in accomplishing our task of helping you.

*With deepest condolences, empathy, respect, and appreciation,*

Joel Johnson, Director / Chief Field Forensic Investigator  
NCITI Psychological Autopsy Team  
Also, a Surviving Parent Since January 8, 2009

**NCITI Psychological Autopsy Family Worksheet**

**REPORTER(s) / HISTORIAN(s) INFORMATION**

Reporter's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Decedent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname(s) \_\_\_\_\_

AKA \_\_\_\_\_

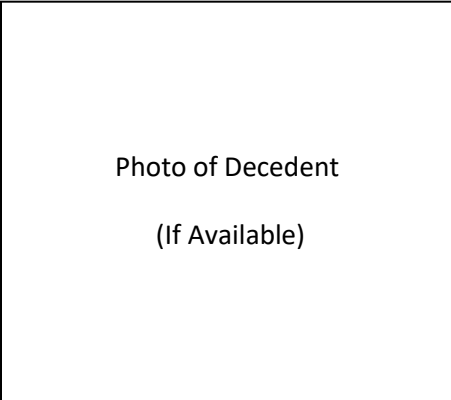
Date / Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date / Place of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State of Death \_\_\_\_\_

LE Jurisdiction \_\_\_\_\_



**BRIEF NARRATIVE OVERVIEW OF CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**DECEDENT'S PAST AND PRESENT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Level \_\_\_\_\_ Highest Degree Attained \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Institutions Attended \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation at Time of Death \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Prior Occupations \_\_\_\_\_

Prior Employers (Attach Resume, if Available) \_\_\_\_\_

Childhood Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Childhood Best Friends \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies / Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Hangouts \_\_\_\_\_

Ideal Day Off Involved \_\_\_\_\_

Ideal Vacation Location / Activity \_\_\_\_\_

How Would You Describe Decedent's Personality? \_\_\_\_\_



**RELEVANT ARTIFACT EVIDENCE (HELD OR RELEASED BY WHAT AGENCY?)**

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**AVAILABLE OFFICIAL REPORTS**

<b><u>Type of Report</u></b>	<b><u>Case #</u></b>	<b><u>Investigating Agency</u></b>	<b><u>Investigator</u></b>	<b><u>Phone</u></b>

**AVAILABLE ARTIFACTS RETAINED BY FAMILY**

**(journals, blogs, financial records, correspondences, diaries, personal web pages, social network pages, et cetera) *PLEASE ATTACH COPIES***

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**DECEDENT'S FAMILY HISTORY AND STRUCTURE**

**Marriages and other Significant Relationships (Parents, Guardians, Siblings, et cetera)**

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**CREDIT AND FINANCIAL HISTORY (DECEDENT AND FAMILY)**

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**DECEDENT'S LIFE ROUTINES**

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**DECEDENT'S INTERESTS**  
**(Hobbies, Extracurricular Activities)**

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**DECEDENT'S SOCIAL HISTORY**  
**(romantic, significant friendships , et cetera)**

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**DECEDENT'S SPIRITUAL HISTORY**

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**DECEDENT'S PROBLEMATIC MENTAL HEALTH HISTORY**

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**STRESSORS IN DECEDENT'S LIFE**

**(Significant stressors within 6 months of death; history of coping mechanisms and skills, et cetera)**

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**DECEDENT'S PAST OR CURRENT LEGAL DIFFICULTIES**

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**DECEDENT'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE/DEPENDENCE HISTORY**

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**DECEDENT'S KNOWN OR SUSPECTED SEXUAL HISTORY**

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**HISTORY OF DECEDENT'S SELF-INJURIOUS and/or THREATENING  
THOUGHTS, IDEATIONS, GESTURES, ATTEMPTS, and other BEHAVIORS**

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**DECEDENT'S FAMILY'S SUICIDE, HOMICIDE, OR ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT  
DEATH HISTORY**

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**ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF CIRCUMSTANCES OF DECEDENT'S DEATH**

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**CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING UP TO REQUEST FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL  
AUTOPSY**

**(Questions, suspicions, problems, special needs, et cetera)**

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**ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION**

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**REPORTER'S SUMMARY**

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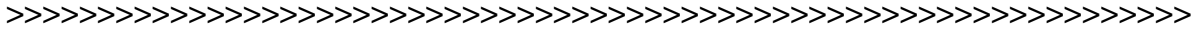
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**Signature of Reporter/Historian** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Completed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Submitted to NCITI-TPAT** \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Submittal (Mail, E-mail, Fax, Hand-delivery, et cetera)** \_\_\_\_\_



**FOR NCITI OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Initial Contact Date \_\_\_\_\_ Open Case Date \_\_\_\_\_ Doc Send Date \_\_\_\_\_**

**Family Worksheet Delivery Method \_\_\_\_\_ Delivery Confirmation # \_\_\_\_\_**

**Initial Receipt Date \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Initial Review Date \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_**

**Initial Contact Date \_\_\_\_\_ Active Case Date \_\_\_\_\_ Assign Date \_\_\_\_\_**

**Case Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Chief Field Forensic Investigator \_\_\_\_\_**

**Assigned Team Members \_\_\_\_\_**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CFFI Site Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Field Inquiry Completion Date \_\_\_\_\_**

**To-Team Submittal Date \_\_\_\_\_ Final From-Team Receipt Date \_\_\_\_\_**

**Report Completion Date \_\_\_\_\_ Final To-Team Submittal Date \_\_\_\_\_**

**Final Signed Report Receipt Date \_\_\_\_\_ Final Submittal Date \_\_\_\_\_**

**Final Report Submitted To \_\_\_\_\_**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Final Delivery Method \_\_\_\_\_ Delivery Confirmation #'s \_\_\_\_\_**  
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