

Homicide - Guidance overview

This page is from APP, the official source of professional practice for policing.

First published 24 March 2014 Updated 1 March 2024

The following documents remain current until further notice:

- [NPCC \(2025\) Practice Advice on Child Death Investigation](#)
- [NPCC \(2023\) National Threats to Life Guidelines](#) – this document is available to authorised users who are logged on to [College Learn](#).
- ACPO (2012) Guidelines on Dealing with Cases of Encouraging or Assisted Suicide – this document has now been superseded. The current guidance can be found in the [mental health APP, suicide pacts or assisted suicide](#)
- [CFOA, ACPO, CPS, HSE \(2014\) Investigative Guidance: Firefighter Fatality in the Workplace](#)
- [Chief Coroner's Office Guidance: Post mortem examinations including second post mortem examinations](#)
- [Chief Coroner's Office Guidance: Suspension, adjournment, resumption of investigations and inquests](#)
- [College of Policing \(2021\) Charter for families bereaved through public tragedy](#)
- [CPS \(2017\) Meeting following acquittal or conviction on a less serious charge – Post Acquittal Meetings](#)
- [Home Office \(2025\) Practice advice: The medical investigation of suspected homicide](#)
- [HSE \(2015\) Work-related Deaths Protocol: Practical Guide \(England and Wales\)](#)
- [NPCC \(2021\) Major Crime Investigation Manual \(MCIM\)](#)
- [NPCC \(2015\) SIO Guide – Investigating Deaths and Serious Harm in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [RCPCH \(2016\) Sudden Unexplained death in infancy and childhood: Multi-agency guidelines for care and investigation](#)

[See further HSE work-related deaths resources.](#)

Investigating deaths in prisons

A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed between NPCC and the Prisons & Probation Ombudsman (PPO).

- **ACPO/PPO (2014) Memorandum of Understanding between the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Prison and Probation Ombudsman.**

The MoU confirms police SIO primacy in all death investigations but confirms that there is a requirement to collaborate and share information with the PPO's investigator. The MoU covers the following points:

- the police will approach all deaths in custody as a potential homicide
- a joint strategy meeting between the police, PPO and Coroner must be held for all death in custody investigations. It may also be necessary to involve the CPS in some cases
- the presumption is that all relevant information will be shared between the police and PPO unless there are specific reasons why this cannot happen

The PPO is an arms-length Body attached to the Ministry of Justice. The Ombudsman has jurisdiction to independently investigate the death of anyone in prison custody, immigration detention or who is a resident of an Approved Premise.

Tags

Homicide