

OSAC is Back! (OSAC = Organization of Scientific Area Committees)

NAME OSAC UPDATE #2: OSAC 2021-S-0013

Standard Guide for Postmortem Examination Photography

This Standard Guide was developed by the OSAC subcommittee Video/Imaging Technology and Analysis. Consider a “standard guide” as a helpful reference that advises on best practices. This OSAC document should be useful to NAME members as a training document for new autopsy room employees, or as a basis for a SOP. AAFS has developed checklists for many of the OSAC documents. The AAFS checklist for this document seems particularly useful (see link below).

This is a brief summary of OSAC 2021-S-0013, and as such may leave out or misinterpret important details. See link to full document (below).

SCOPE: Provides procedures describing specific photography and lighting techniques for documenting postmortem examinations.

- Suggests equipment including camera support (tripods, etc.), scales (such as ABFO) and background materials.
- The camera settings/directions section provides basic information.
- The general considerations section has tips such as always orienting the case number with the bottom of the number parallelling the feet, and if photographing organs, orienting the organ as if in the body, and placing label with numbers paralleling the projected position of the feet.
- Describes the ideal sequence of taking postmortem photographs: bag with seal, overalls of body, etc.
- Provides specific advice for head shots, injury documentation, internal body photographs, high resolution photographs, clothing
- The retention and storage of photographs section is very basic—states the importance of retaining all photographs, etc.

Full Document: <https://www.nist.gov/document/osac-2021-s-0013standard-guide-post-mortem-examination-photographyregistry>

Checklist:

https://www.aafs.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Video_OSAC%202021-S-0013_Checklist%20V1%20.xlsx