

NECROSEARCH CLANDESTINE GRAVE QUESTIONNAIRE

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NecroSearch is a team of civilian and sworn specialists whose aim is to assist law enforcement agencies in the detection of and recovery of evidence from clandestine graves. All information supplied on this questionnaire is strictly confidential. Please advise NecroSearch of any special needs or concerns you have in your investigation.

Victim's Name: _____

(Use separate sheet for each victim)

Victim's Date of Birth: _____

Requesting Agency:

Address:

This Block for NecroSearch Use

N.S. Case No. _____

N.S. Contact _____

Date Presented _____

Actions Taken: _____

Agency Case Number:

Contact Person:

Phone Number:

FAX Number:

Note: We realize that you may not have all of the information requested on this questionnaire. You may wish to provide estimates or educated guesses, but please identify them as such.

1. When was the victim killed?

2. Where was the victim killed?

Information based on witness statement?

Information based on suspect(s) statement/confession?

Information based on anonymous source?

Information based on psychic?

Other information based on (please specify) _____

3. What was the reported time interval between death and burial?

Where was the victim during this time?

4. How did the victim reach the suspected site or area?

Walked under own power?

Carried? (by one or more individuals?):

Dragged? (by one or more individuals?):

By vehicle? (specifics on type or model?):

2-door ___ 4-door ___

4-wheel drive? _____

5. Height/weight/build of suspect(s):

Are the suspects capable of carrying the victim?

If so, how far in the terrain you suspect?

6. How well did the suspects know the area and possible hiding places?

NecroSearch Questionnaire 2

NecroSearch Questionnaire2.

If this/these are strong suspects, are there other areas and hiding places well known and frequented by these suspects? Have you eliminated these other areas from consideration? Why?

7. Do you suspect that a grave was dug? (If NO, answer the following questions as they pertain to a hiding place of another kind.)
 - If not by burial, how do you believe the body was hidden?
 - What was the suspected date of burial?
 - What would be the anticipated ground conditions in this location at the suspected time of year (dry, moist, swampy, frozen)?
8. What weather records are available during the time frame the grave was dug?
9. At what time of day/night was the grave reported to have been dug?
 - Was light available during the digging? _____ Natural? _____ Other? _____
10. How long is it reported to have taken to dig the grave?
 - How many individuals were involved in the digging?
 - Did two or more individuals dig simultaneously or alternate?
 - What tools were used for excavating?
 - Are any of the suspected tools being held for evidence?
 - Has analysis (soil, blood, hair, plants) been performed on tools?

 - Was earthmoving equipment used (such as backhoe)? (If you suspect the use of this equipment, it may be possible to eliminate some sites by having a person knowledgeable with that specific equipment review the suspected site).
11. What efforts are reported to have been made to conceal the grave?
 - Was the body disposed of in an area to be covered over by construction?
 - Was the grave place in an area of heavy vegetation or trees?
12. What vegetation was believed or reported to have been present at the time of excavation?
 - What weeds are likely to appear first over disturbed soil in this area?
13. What are the suspected dimensions of the grave (length, width, depth)?
 - How much covering was placed over the victim?
 - What type of covering was used (soil, rock, brush, logs, lumber, concrete)?
 - Has anything happened since burial to alter grave site? (flooding, construction, fire, paving)?
14. How was the body allegedly buried?
 - Stretched out?
 - Fetal position?
 - Other position?

NecroSearch Questionnaire 3

NecroSearch Questionnaire2.

Dismembered?

Clothed? _____ Partially _____ Fully _____

Specifics on clothing and especially footwear?

Wrapped? _____ In what type material? _____

Any objects interred with victim? _____ Metal?(type) _____

15. Has any technical examination of the area been performed by others (including the use of dogs, foot searches, digging, geophysical surveys, etc.)?

If Yes, briefly describe what was done and what results were obtained.

16. Who owns the property to be investigated?

Has consent been obtained to enter and work the scene?

Has a search warrant been obtained?

Is the owner/manager/caretaker available to give history and details?

What is the history of the site?

What information exists on location of known underground interferences (dumps, wells, septic and sewer systems, tanks, pipelines, animal graves)?

17. Has any physical evidence been recovered in the general area that is or may be associated with the victim(s)?

Are there any signs of blood in the area?

18. Is there evidence of animals and birds, particularly scavengers, in the area?

What animals have been sighted?

What types of tracks exist?

What other types of scavenger evidence (scat, hair)?

19. Was the victim a known drug user? Light ___ Moderate ___ Heavy ___

(It is has been suggested that animals do not scavenge the remains of drug users, but this has not yet been substantiated).

20. What maps of the area are available?

Topographic? ___ Forest Service? ___ Bureau of Land Management (BLM)? ___ National Park

Service? ___ Soil Conservation Service? ___ Real Estate Developers? ___ Local Utilites? ___

Others? ___ (Please Specify) _____

If outside the US, what land/resource management agencies are available?

21. Are pre- and post-burial aerial photographs available?

How many years before burial?

How many years after burial?

What types? Color ___ B&W ___ Infrared ___ Stereo ___

Source? US Government ___ City & County ___ Tax Assessor ___ Highway

Department ___ Pipeline Company ___ Railroad ___ Public Service ___ Private ___

NecroSearch Questionnaire 4

NecroSearch Questionnaire2.

22. Is an aircraft available to use for site photography?
For site viewing?
23. Are site photos available? _____ Can they be taken? _____
What is the largest film size available to you?
Early morning around sunrise?
Late afternoon around sunset?
From ground level?
From elevated position? (e.g. tree, buildings, fire dept. ladder truck, etc.)
Photos of surrounding areas and access into site (roads, paths)?
24. What resource bases exist in your local area?
Specialists at universities, colleges, utility companies, private firms, and equipment
such as aircraft, cameras, geophysical equipment and tracking/cadaver dogs?
25. What reasons do YOU have to believe that the area in question is the area containing the
grave? Is there any other information that you could offer that helps make this gravesite
and grave unique and that would assist us in locating it? Our experience shows that
some killers dispose of victims in unique ways. An understanding of disposal methods will
help us to evaluate your case.
26. Please give us construction drawings (as built) of any building on the site if you suspect
that the body may be hidden in/around them.
27. FINALLY - if successful in your search for a clandestine grave, we would appreciate
receiving information on the particulars of the grave for our database. Information such as
distance from the nearest town, nearest road, upslope or downslope, type of covering,
etc., will help us all in evaluating and assisting in future cases.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT:

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**NOTE: AS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH, OTHER THAN THE APPLICATIONS OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODS TO THE PROBLEMS OF LOCATING CLANDESTINE GRAVES AT A
SCENE, FALLS OUTSIDE OF NECROSEARCH'S MISSION, NO MEMBER OF ANY NECROSEARCH
TEAM WILL REMOVE CULTURAL OBJECTS FROM ANY PROJECT AREA WHICH DO NOT HAVE A
DIRECT OR LEGAL BEARING ON THE CASE UNDER INVESTIGATION AT THAT SCENE.**