

## DETERMINING THE TIME OF DEATH CRIME INVESTIGATION AND FORENSIC ASPECTS

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**Summary:** Determining the time of death of a person has a direct influence on numerous criminal law and criminalistic issues. There are various methods for determining the time of death, ranging from witnesses' testimonies, to autopsy reports and numerous other expert opinions. However, unless there are witnesses of the event, the exact time of death is practically impossible to determine. In criminalistic terms, determining the time of death implies the synthesized use of exact forensic sciences in analysis of the very corpse (above all forensic medicine) and the place where the corpse was found, as well as criminalistic operative knowledge acquired by collecting and analyzing the information related to victim's personality. Estimation of the time of death based on the corpse's condition implies the use of forensic pathology methods that determine the level of postmortem changes, which occur in specific, predetermined order. In recent years, forensic entomology knowledge about the development and growth of the maggots of flies and other insects that inhabit the body after death, give significant results in this area. Furthermore, new and innovative methods that are used for determining the age of blood stains, significantly assist criminal investigators in more efficient investigation of crime scene and determination of the time of death. As for the sphere of criminal-operative treatment, it is necessary to reconstruct the victim's movement in function of time, that is monitor his/her activities in chronological order, until the moment when the victim was last seen.