

# A CORONER'S LIFE

The evolving role in major emergency  
management

# The Coroner is an independent judicial officer,

- Who has overall responsibility for investigating
- all sudden or unexplained deaths,
  - Consultation with treating doctor
  - Post mortem
- violent or unnatural deaths.
  - Post mortem
  - Inquest

The coroner has overall responsibility for bodies and remains and is entitled to exclusive possession and control of a deceased person until the facts about their death have been established.

# The coroner is responsible for

- Arranging for the body to be recovered from the place of their death
- For the body to be kept in a proper manner until all necessary post-mortem and forensic examinations can take place.
- Ensuring that there are suitable facilities for such examinations.
- Such that the body is properly identified
- Such that cause of death is determined
- Such that any evidence of crime is preserved for the police to deal with further.
- He must liaison with relatives.
- Eventually the body and personal property to be released for disposal to those lawfully entitled.

# Arranging for the body to be recovered from the place of their death

- the process of victim recovery cannot be rushed.
- To lessen risk of destruction or contamination of evidence.
- The scene evidence recovery management group.
  - senior investigating officer
  - senior identification manager
  - police scene evidence recovery manager
- Locating victims and human remains, numbering and photographing / video and mapping
- A body holding area may be needed

For the body to be kept in a proper manner until all necessary post-mortem and forensic examinations can take place.  
Ensuring that there are suitable facilities for such examinations.

## Temporary Mortuary

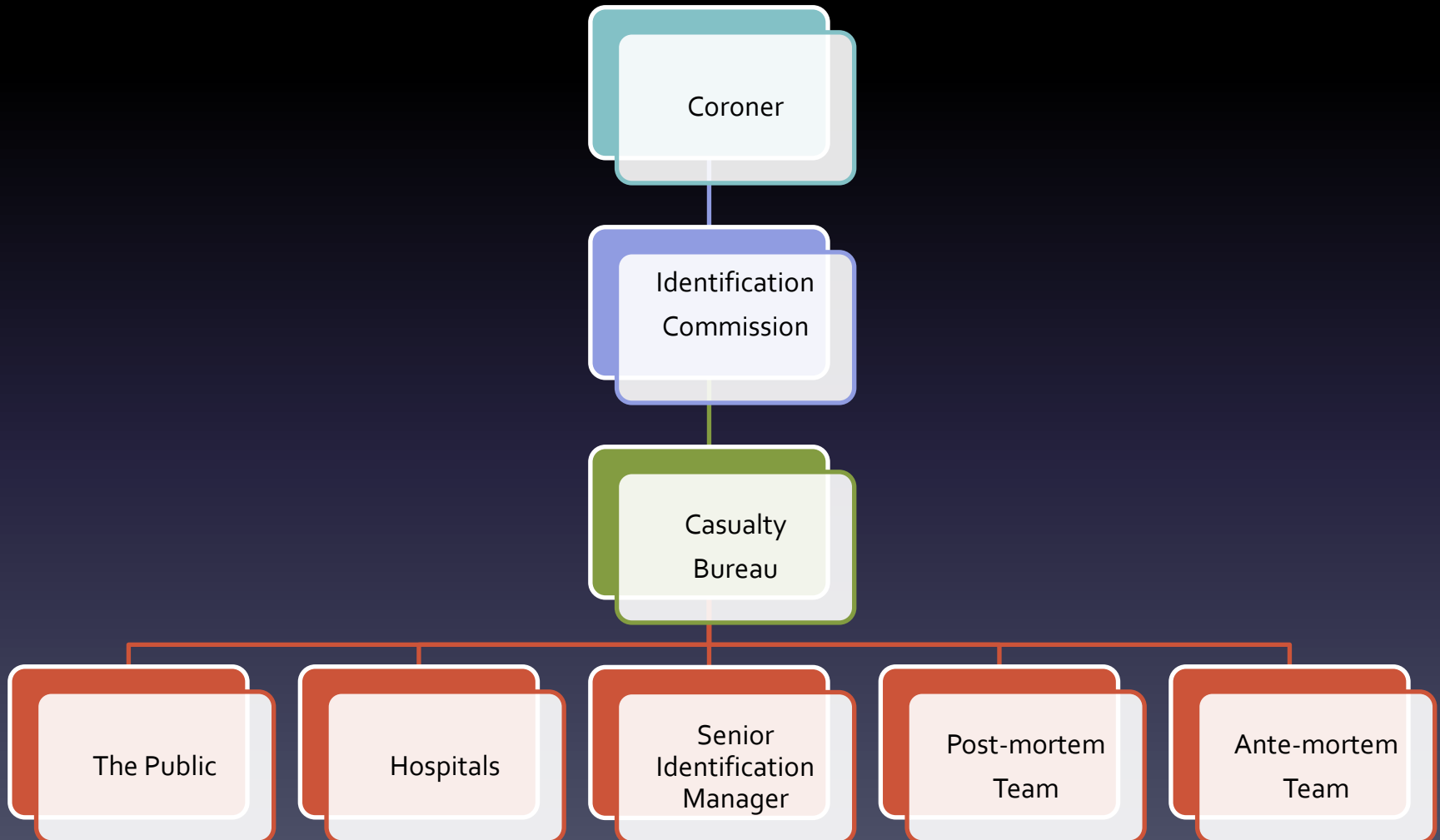
- The number of fatalities.
- The number of body parts.
- a closed scenario such as where there is a passenger list in an aircraft incident.
- an open scenario such as a bomb in a shopping center

# A Mortuary Action Report

- Reception procedures including confirmation of identity tagging and numbering,
- Radiography
- Strip search and initial examination and 'triage' – to assess extent of examination, and photography
- Fingerprinting
- Post mortem examination
- Odontology
- Rebagging – ideally to different colour bag before post mortem
- Reconstruction and embalming
- Putting victims into coffins
- **Release of Bodies**

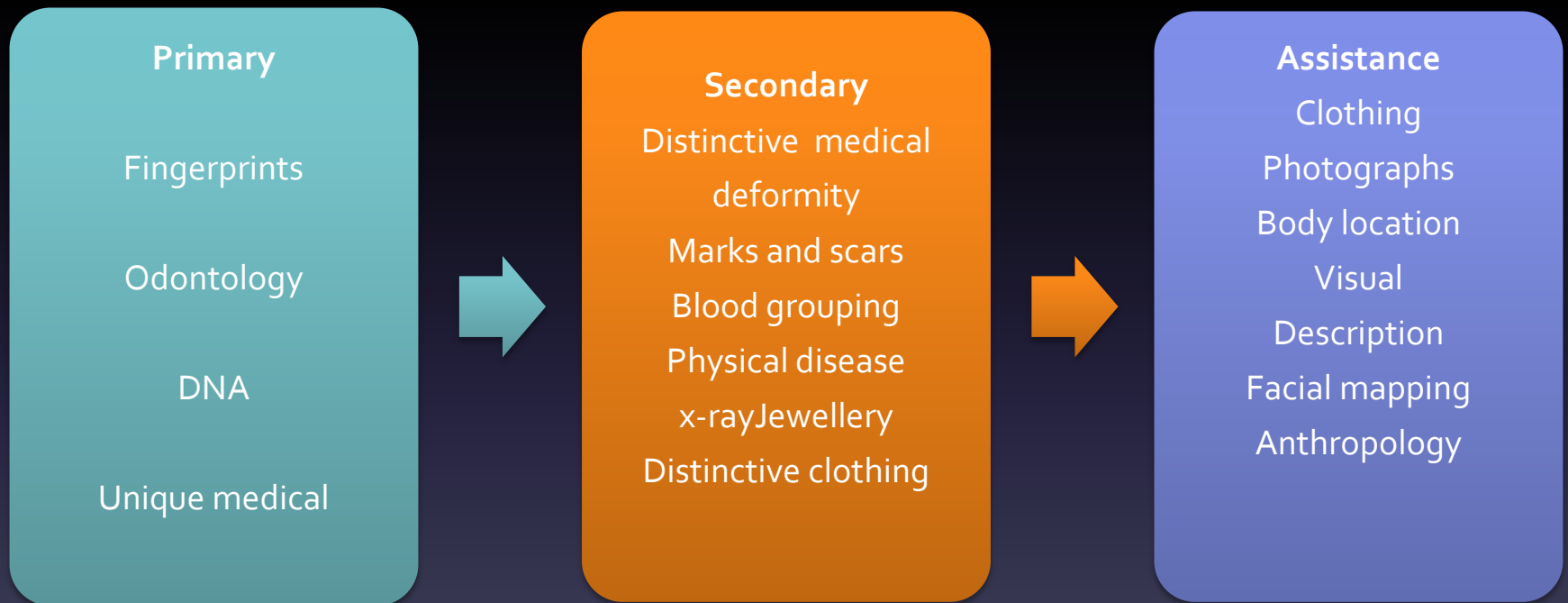
# Identification

## sources and routes of information





# Identification Criteria



# Liaison with victims relatives

## The Concerns of the Relatives

- Why are bodies left in situ for some time
- Why are bodies in a temporary mortuary
- What will happen to the bodies
- Why are we discouraged for viewing the bodies-can we be refused?
- When will the bodies be released
- What is an inquest

C.S.I.

(Crime Scene Investigation)

Donegal Style

2012,

A workman was working on the bank of the river Foyle.

- Human remains were uncovered.
- Skeletal
- But some clothing was still on the body
- a sweatshirt,
  - a Nike runner
  - a Nike tracksuit bottoms.
- The previous year a named man had gone missing and it was presumed that he had fallen into the river nearby.
- Because of the circumstances of his death, a post-mortem was performed by the state pathologist.





## Primary

Fingerprints

Odontology

DNA

Unique medical

## Secondary

Distinctive medical  
deformity

Marks and scars

Blood grouping

Physical disease

x-ray Jewellery

Distinctive clothing

## Assistance

Clothing

Photographs

Body location

Visual

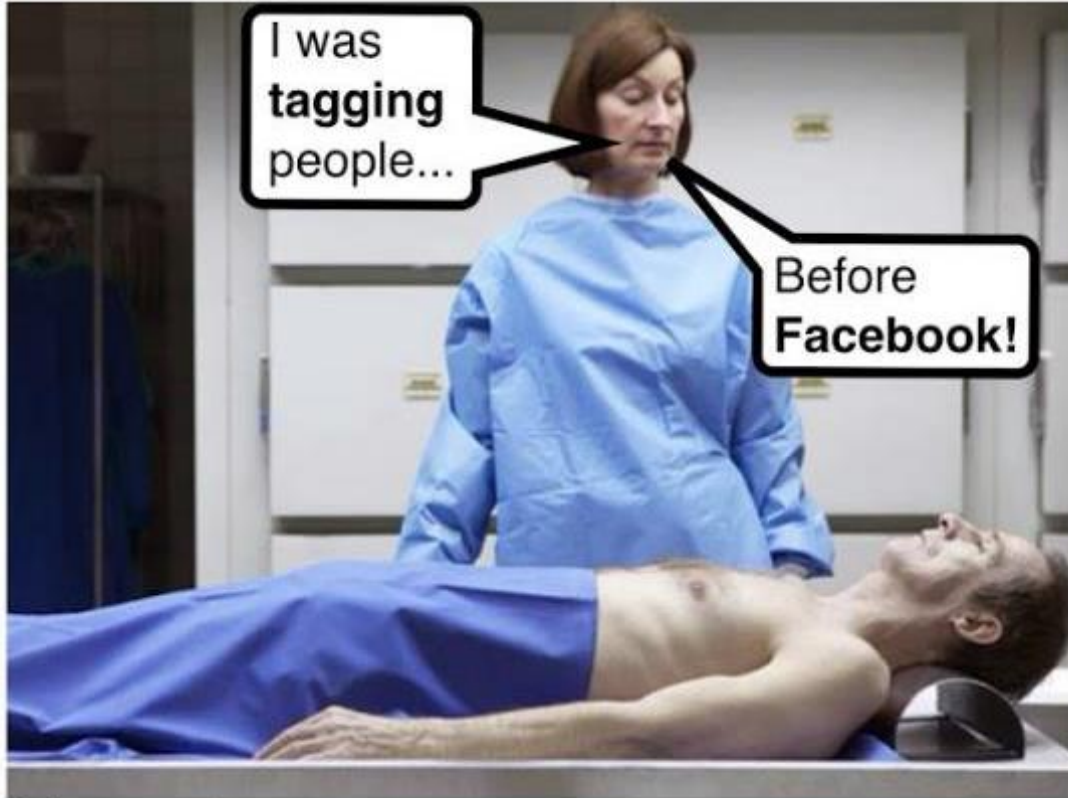
Description

Facial mapping

Anthropology







I was tagging people...

Before Facebook!

[jokecemetary.com](http://jokecemetary.com)