











**Motor skill:** An action that involves the movement and control of muscles in a person's body.

**NCIC (National Crime Information Center):** A computerized index of criminal justice information.

**Neck compression:** Compression of the neck can be brought about by any object or can result from an unusual position such as may occur when a premature baby is placed in a car seat with poor neck support.

**Nonjudgmental questions:** Questions that do not infer judgment in their tone or wording.

**NOK:** Next of kin.

**Nonorganic FTT:** Growth failure due to environmental neglect (e.g., lack of food) or other psychosocial factors.

**Normal birth weight:** An infant's weight at birth is five pounds, eight ounces or more, or greater or equal to 2,500 grams.

**Occlude:** 1. To cause to become closed; obstruct. 2. To prevent the passage of.

**Open-ended questions:** Questions that encourage people to tell a story in their own words; the opposite of close-ended (i.e., yes/no) questions.

**Organic FTT:** Growth failure that is due to an acute or chronic disorder known to interfere with normal nutrient intake, absorption, metabolism, or excretion.

**Osteogenesis imperfecta:** A hereditary disease marked by extreme brittleness of the long bones and a bluish color of the whites of the eyes.

**OTC:** Over-the-counter medication.

**Other responders:** Individuals who are involved in an aspect of the crime scene, such as perimeter security, traffic control, media management, scene processing, and technical support, as well as prosecutors, medical personnel, medical examiners, coroners, forensic examiners, evidence technicians, and fire and rescue officers.

**Overlaying:** Accidental suffocation in bed typically caused when the mother (or some other caregiver or sibling) sleeps in the same bed as the infant and accidentally suffocates the infant by turning over onto the baby while sleeping. The infant suffocates because he or she is unable to breathe through his or her nose and/or mouth.

**Passive listening:** Listening that is mechanical or effortless and does not provide feedback (e.g., listening to the radio).

**Pathologist:** A specialist in pathology; a physician who interprets and diagnoses the changes caused by disease in tissues and body fluids.

**Percentiles:** Percent of the reference population the infant's weight or length would be less than, equal to, or exceed. For example, an infant whose weight is at the 5th percentile for age weighs the same or more than 5% of infants his or her age and weighs less than 95% of infants his or her age.

**Petechiae:** Pinpoint hemorrhages or bruises. Petechiae are a frequent finding in autopsies of SIDS victims.

**Placer:** The person who last placed the infant in or near the area where he or she was found dead.

**Poisoning:** Poisoning or intoxication is the inhalation or ingestion of poison or toxic substances or gases such as carbon monoxide, noxious gases, chemicals, sprays, medications, and illicit drugs, which can cause a blockage of the respiratory tract resulting in death.

**Postmortem examination:** An examination of the body after death, usually with such dissection as will expose the vital organs for determining the cause of death or the character and extent of changes produced by disease; an autopsy.

**Preterm:** Infants born before the end of the 37th week of pregnancy.

**Primitive reflexes:** Movements that we are born with and that we cannot control (e.g., startle reflex). These reflexes go away in time and are replaced by movements that we can control.

**Prone (sleep position):** Sleeping on stomach. Evidence suggests that prone sleeping increases the risk of SIDS.

**Proxemics:** Refers to intimate, personal, social, and public distances at which people stand or sit in relation to another person(s).

**Pyloric stenosis:** Pyloric stenosis is a narrowing of the pylorus, the lower part of the stomach through which food and other stomach contents pass to enter the small intestine. When an infant has pyloric stenosis, the muscles in the pylorus have become enlarged to the point where food is prevented from emptying out of the stomach.

**Rebreathing:** The partial or complete inhalation of previously exhaled gases. The rebreathing of exhaled gases is thought to occur when infants lay face down or prone (on stomach). A popular theory is that stomach sleeping can increase an infant's risk of "rebreathing" his or her own exhaled air, particularly if the infant is sleeping on a soft mattress or with bedding, stuffed toys, or a pillow near his or her face.

**Respiratory arrest:** A condition in which breathing has stopped.

**Respiratory distress:** A condition in which breathing is difficult.

**Resuscitative efforts:** Any actions performed in an effort to resuscitate an infant.

**Rigor mortis:** Temporary rigidity of muscles occurring after death.

**Rx:** Prescription medication.

**Sharing sleep surface:** This practice involves a baby sleeping with others on the same sleep surface, such as in the adult bed or on a couch. The term *bedsharing* should not be used interchangeably with the term *co-sleeping*; the latter term should be avoided.

**SIDS:** Sudden infant death syndrome.

**Social skills:** The ability to interact with your environment and people around you.

**SS#:** Social security number.

**Subdural hemorrhage** (Synonymous with subdural hematoma): A collection of blood on the surface of the brain that lies beneath the outer covering (the dura) of the brain and the brain's surface.

**Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS):** The death of an infant less than one year of age that remains unexplained after a thorough investigation of the death scene(s), complete forensic autopsy, and review of the clinical history (i.e., a diagnosis of exclusion).

**Supine (sleep position):** Sleeping on back. Evidence suggests that supine sleeping reduces the risk of SIDS.

**Tachycardia:** Heart rate that is more rapid than normal.

**Term:** Infants born at or after the end of the 37th week of pregnancy.

**Thorax:** The part of the human body between the neck and the diaphragm, partially encased by the ribs and containing the heart and lungs; the chest.

**Undernutrition:** What happens when a person's body does not get the nutrients it needs for good health or cannot use the nutrients it gets.

**Unk:** Unknown.

**Usual caregiver:** The person responsible for providing the usual, ongoing care for the infant (e.g., changing diapers and feeding).

**Very low birth weight:** An infant's weight at birth is less than three pounds, five ounces or 1,500 grams.

**Voluntary motor control:** Movement that we can control.

**Wedging:** A form of asphyxia that occurs when the face or thorax is compressed, preventing respiration, typically because of entrapment between two objects.