

# Section 2

## THE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF HOMICIDE AND MAJOR INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

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Less obvious scenarios include:

- Reports of missing persons;
- Sudden unexplained death of an infant;
- Reports of abduction;
- Reports of violence where fatalities are not anticipated;
- No body crime scenes;
- Hit and run accidents;
- Suicides;
- Fatal fires;
- Drugs-related deaths.

If the potential for these reports to involve homicide is overlooked, opportunities to gather significant material may be lost. Where death or serious injury is reported or the circumstances of an incident appear suspicious, call handlers should always **Think Murder**.

It is important to establish, from those reporting an incident that may be a homicide, whether the victim could still be alive. If in any doubt, medical assistance should be sent to the scene.

The significance of the information provided by the person reporting an incident that may be a homicide must not be underestimated. Accurately recording the following details is essential:

- Name, home address and telephone number of the person making the report;
- First account of the person making the report;
- Precise details of the location of the scene;
- Circumstances leading to the discovery;
- Identity of the victim, if known;
- Details of other people at the scene;
- Relationship of the person making the report to the victim;
- Location of the person making the report;
- Demeanour of the person making the report.

Until police officers have arrived at the scene, there is a risk that valuable material may be lost or contaminated. To minimise the potential for this to happen the person making the report should be advised to:

- Return to a location proximate to the scene;
- Not to enter the obvious parameters of the scene;
- Not to touch or move anything;
- Prevent others from approaching the scene;
- Identify themselves to the first officer arriving at the scene.

In cases where the caller attempts to remain anonymous, every effort should be made to discover their identity. If they terminate the call, steps should be taken to establish its origins.