



CADAT / CDAA Joint Annual Conference April 10 – 11, 2026



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Course: *Forensic Odontology*

Course Description:

This course will present an overview of the field of Forensic Odontology and how dentistry is important to the missing and unidentified persons in California. Forensic science has been in the news often in recent decades and is common in both fictional and true crime books and movies. A variety of California forensic dental cases will be presented from the presenter's 50+ years in the field.

Course Objectives:

1. Describe the steps in the usual identification process.
2. Understand how dentistry is involved with this process.
3. Learn the important dental records needed by a coroner from a dental office.
4. Become familiar with types of forensic dental cases.

Speaker Bio

D.D.S. DEGREE

1965 University of Southern California, School of Dentistry

MILITARY

Active Duty: 1965-69 Dental Officer, U.S. Navy

Reserve Duty: 1969-91 U.S. Naval Reserve Dental Corps

Retired: U.S. Naval Reserve May 1991

PEDIATRIC DENTAL RESIDENCY

1969-70 Pediatric Dental Extern; Children's Hospital, Oakland CA

1970-72 Pediatric Dental Resident; Children's Hospital Medical Center, Oakland
Univ. of Pacific, School of Dentistry (San Francisco CA)

PRIVATE PEDIATRIC DENTAL PRACTICE

1969-88 Berkeley CA

1973-2015 Walnut Creek CA WalnutCreekKidsDentistry.com

CHIEF OF DENTISTRY

1986-89 Children's Hospital, Oakland CA



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FORENSIC EDUCATION

Forensic Odontology, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Wash., D.C. 1976
Forensic Odontology, Univ. California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry 1978
Forensic Anthropology, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Wash., D.C. 1990
Numerous continuing education courses.

CONSULTANT IN FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY

Alameda County Sheriff, Coroner's Bureau; Contra Costa County Sheriff-Coroner; San Mateo County Coroner; Solano County Sheriff-Coroner; Merced County Sheriff-Coroner; Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner; Marin County Sheriff-Coroner, Napa County Sheriff-Coroner, Madera County Sheriff-Coroner, Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner, Monterey County Sheriff-Coroner, Ventura County Sheriff-Coroner, Siskiyou County Sheriff-Coroner, Santa Clara County Coroner.

Back-up forensic dental consultant to: Sonoma County Coroner, Mendocino County Coroner, Lake County Coroner, San Joaquin County Sheriff-Coroner

California State Department of Justice, Missing/Unidentified Persons Unit (MUPS)

NCMEC (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children), Team Adam;
FEMA Contractor

Calif. Dental Identification Team (CalDIT)

DMORT Region IX: (member) 2005-2016.

FORENSIC BOARD CERTIFICATION

Diplomate, American Board of Forensic Odontology (ABFO) Feb. 1986 (Certif. #73)

FORENSIC PUBLICATIONS

IDENTIFYING FIRE VICTIMS; THE EAST BAY FIRESTORM: Spencer & Berk; Journal of the California Dental Association; Feb. 1992.

BITEMARK ANALYSIS AND PROFILE; A FATALITY AND THE AMERICAN LION: Rollins & Spencer, Journal of Forensic Sciences; Vol. 40, No. 3, May 1995.

CHILD ABUSE: Kenney & Spencer; Manual of Forensic Odontology, 3rd Ed., 1995

DENTAL IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN: Manual of Forensic Odont, 3rd Ed., 1995

BITE MARKS IN CHILD ABUSE: Manual of Forensic Odontology, 3rd Ed., 1995

RECOGNIZING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE: Journal of the California Dental Association; May 1996

CHILD ABUSE: Journal of the Southeastern Society of Pediatric Dentistry; Vol. 3, No. 1, 1st Quarter 1997.

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND THE DENTAL TEAM; Newsletter of the California Dental Assistants' Association, 2000.

FORENSIC DENTAL EVIDENCE; An Investigator's Handbook; Contributing Author;



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C.M. Bowers, Elsevier Academic Press, 2004.

CHILD ABUSE; DENTISTS' RECOGNITION AND INVOLVEMENT; Journal of the California Dental Association; April 2004, Vol. 32 No. 4.

TOOTHPRINTS; Contra Costa Dental Society; Volume 4; April 2004

BIOTERRORISM & FORENSICS; Contributing Editor; Journal of the California Dental Association; August 2004, Vol. 32 No. 8.

PROMOTION OF THE USE OF A THERMOPLASTIC MATERIAL TO AID IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN REMAINS; Introduction; Journal of the California Dental Association; November 2004; Vol 32, No. 11.
CHILD ABUSE AND THE DENTAL OFFICE; Special Patient Care; Dental Abstracts, Nov.-Dec. 2004; Vol. 49, No. 6.

MANUAL OF FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY; Contributing Author; 4th Ed.; 2006.
MANUAL OF FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY; Contributing Author, 5th Ed.; 2013.
FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY: AN OVERVIEW; Journal of the California Dental Association; June 2014, Vo. 42, No. 6.

FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY; Guest Editor; Journal of the California Dental Association; June 2015.

FORENSIC ORGANIZATIONS

Fellow, American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)

2016 Reidar Sognaes Award recipient

American Society of Forensic Odontology (ASFO)

American Board of Forensic Odontology (ABFO)

1994-96: Chairman, Bylaws Committee

1996-00; 2009-10; Chairman, Committee on Human Abuse & Neglect

1998-04; 2010-2013, 2013-2016: Board of Directors

2002; 2011; 2015; 2021: Member, Nominating Committee

2004 Co-author; ABFO Position Paper

2005-10: Certification & Examination Committee; Chairman: 2008-09

2018-21: Ethics Committee; Chairman: 2020-21

California Society of Forensic Dentistry, Inc. (CSFD) (estbl: 1991)

Co-founder; Secretary-Treasurer

EXPERT WITNESS EXPERIENCE

Admitted as expert witness in forensic odontology: Municipal, Superior & U.S. District courts. Multiple appearances.

Admitted as pediatric dental expert witness: Calif. State Administrative Court



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ADDITIONAL FORENSIC EXPERIENCES

One of four American forensic dentists to be a part of the first delegation of U.S. forensic scientists (AAFS) to visit the Soviet Union. April 1988.

One of three American forensic dentists to be a part of the AAFS delegation to South America (Columbia, Chile & Argentina). April 2005.

Worked at the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Honolulu, Hawaii.(CILHI). March 1989. Currently the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA).

Identifications of the skeletal remains of U.S. servicemen killed in action in Viet Nam.

Participant: 1994 ABFO Bite Mark Workshop II; San Antonio TX.
1997 ABFO Bite Mark Workshop III; New York City
1999 ABFO Bite Mark Workshop IV; Orlando FL
2003 ABFO Bite Mark Workshop; Chicago IL; Moderator
2011 ABFO Age Estimation Workshop; Chicago IL
Presenter: *Dental Age Estimation of Children*

Have organized and directed numerous forensic dental courses in California. Presentations on forensic odontology and/or child abuse given in U.S., England, Japan, U.S.S.R and Argentina.

NamUs

Member, Contra Costa County Child Death Review Team (resigned after 24 years)

Member, California P.O.S.T.(Peace Officers' Standards and Training); Committees:
Develop training videos: *Children at Risk* (2002-2003);
Guidelines for Missing Persons (2005-2006); *Guidelines for Missing Persons* (2011).

Forensic/Pediatric Dental reviewer: Journal of the California Dental Association.
Pediatric Expert Consultant: Dental Board of California.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor. Kanagawa Dental School, Yokosuka, Japan. 1966-69.
Clinical Instructor, Pediatric Dentistry. Univ. Pacific, School of Dentistry. 1973.
Pediatric Dental Consultant, U.S. Naval Hospital, Oakland CA. 1973-1984.
Assistant Clinical Professor, Dept.of Growth & Development; Univ. of California, School of Dentistry; Appt. March 1986.

Lecturer/Presenter: Univ. California, Berkeley; Univ. California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry; Univ. of Pacific, School of Dentistry; Univ. of California, Davis, Medical Center; Univ. of Southern California, School of Dentistry; Midwestern Univ. College Dental Medicine, AZ; Chaminade Univ./HPD, Honolulu; Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill; Loma Vista Adult School, Concord; Chabot College, Hayward; Los Medanos College,



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Antioch; Carrington College, Sacramento; Evergreen College, San Jose; Calif. State Dept. of Justice, Sacramento; Nevada Department of Investigation; Orange County Coroners' Course; Univ. of California, Davis, Extension; Stanford University, Public Safety; International Assoc. for Identification; California Dental Association; American Dental Association; Calif. Society of Pediatric Dentistry; American Student Dental Association; American Society of Forensic Odontology; American Board of Forensic Odontology, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, California Criminalists' Assoc., California Coroners' Assoc.; numerous law enforcement, health professional, civic and school groups.

Volunteer Community Educator/Trainer, Contra Costa County Child Abuse Prevention Council.

ADVISORY BOARDS

Dental Programs: Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill CA.
Dental Assisting Program: Mt. Diablo Adult Center, Concord CA.

DENTAL LICENSURE

California Dental License 1965 (18414)

DENTAL PUBLICATIONS

A CONSERVATIVE METHOD OF TREATING TETRACYCLINE STAINED TEETH:
Journal of Dentistry for Children; Nov-Dec. 1972.
TEEN TEETH AND "LIQUID CANDY": COMPOSITE, Contra Costa Dental Society, Vol. 3, Feb. 2001.

ORGANIZATIONS

American and California Dental Associations
Contra Costa Dental Society
Berkeley Dental Society
California Society of Pediatric Dentistry
UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital; Emeritus Staff
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Fellow, American College of Dentists
Fellow, Pierre Fauchard Academy
Century Club: U.S.C. School of Dentistry
Alumni Association: U.S.C. School of Dentistry
General Alumni Association: Univ. of Southern California, Life Member
Reserve Officers' Association of the United States, Life Member
American Legion
Association U.S.Navy, Life Member
Contra Costa County Sheriff's Posse
Mt. Diablo- Silverado Council, Boy Scouts of America: 23 years; Cubmaster,
Scoutmaster, Council Vice President & member, Council Executive Board; Silver
Beaver Recipient