

heat beat, flash crime fiction, Vice Presidents

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Heat Beat, Flash Crime Fiction, Vice Presidents

Hello everyone!

The Last Word is celebrating its first birthday this month—hard to believe.

We've been sweltering here (again) in southeastern Pennsylvania and judging by the news, we're not alone. It's another year of record heat and deadly heat waves or domes, or whatever they're being called these days. I'm leaning towards "heat dooms."

I've been asked to do a webinar this fall on heat-related deaths, so this month's blog is an update on that topic. I am eager to hear from any coroner or medical examiner about what criteria you use to diagnose and document deaths where heat may be a primary cause or contributing factor. You can contact me [here](#).

Creative nonfiction is my current writing preoccupation but I've tried my hand at crime fiction before and may return there soon. Meanwhile, I plan to attend the [Killer Nashville conference](#) in August. If you'll be there, let me know so we can meet up!

Christina

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P.P. S. I am not compensated for anything I write or link to in this newsletter or my blog.

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Recent Blog Posts

Heat-Related Mortality: How to Measure Heat Doom

If we don't know the extent of a problem, we can't or won't do much to fix it. That's what's going on with heat-related mortality. Until we know how many people are dying of heat exposure and who they are, most government officials and policymakers can and will ignore the existential danger of extreme heat.... The post Heat-Related Mortality: How to Measure Heat Doom appeared first on Christina VandePol.

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Revival of Coroner Inquests brings Transparency to Deaths in Custody

Eduardo Lee Hoover, Junior, age 38, sat in his pick-up truck, boxed in by four police cars after a chase in Washington County, PA. One officer shot into the front of the vehicle, trying to disable it. Officer Tyler Evans, behind the truck, fatally shot Hoover in the back of the head and neck. Hoover,... The post Revival of Coroner Inquests brings Transparency to Deaths in Custody appeared first on Christina VandePol.

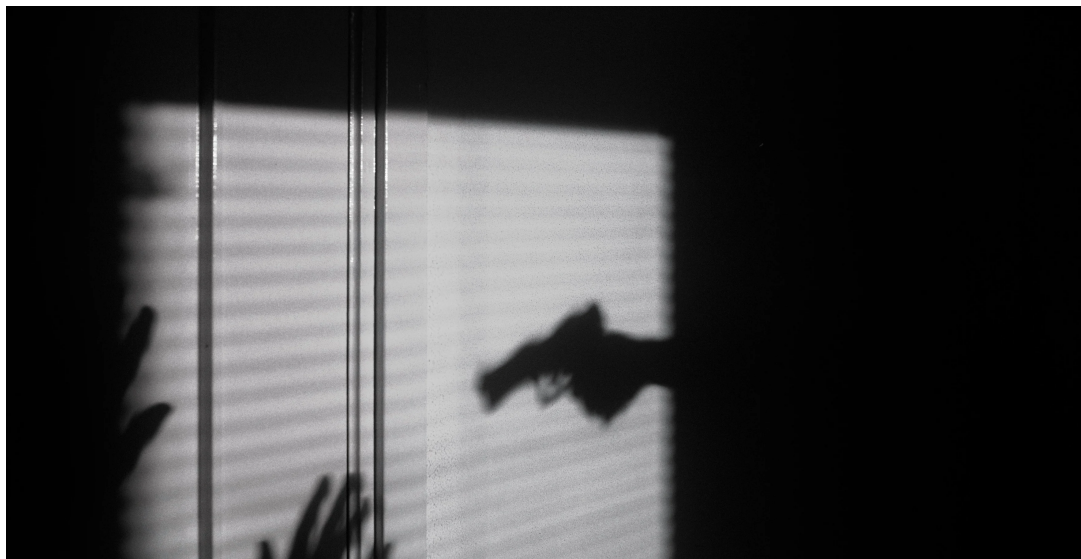
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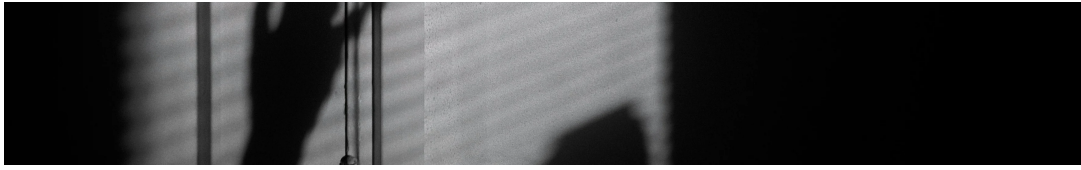
Who Signs a Death Certificate?

Who signs a death certificate depends: was the death due to natural causes or not? Where did the person die? What's the state law? The post Who Signs a Death Certificate? appeared first on Christina VandePol.

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Flash Crime Fiction





Author [Yvonne Ventresca](#) contacted me recently while doing research for her in-progress crime fiction novel. I love her flash fiction piece *Affirmations* in [Shotgun Honey](#). I'm not doing any spoilers here, just want to say that death investigators will enjoy the scenario!

[Killer Nashville](#) also features flash crime stories and I'm sure there are many other online and print magazines that feature this genre that I look forward to discovering.

Readers, let me know your favorite flash crime fiction magazines!

Forensic Flashback

A Murderous Vice President

It's been quite a month for Vice Presidential history, but nothing like what happened 220 years ago. That's how long it's been since Vice President Burr fatally shot Alexander Hamilton on July 11, 1804.

I didn't see the musical but I'm pretty sure it didn't include the inquest that took place the day after Hamilton's death. Here's some information from the official record of the inquest:

“John Burger Coroner for the Said City and County of Newyork,” convened an [inquest](#) jury on July 13, 1804. Fourteen “good and lawful men” (yes, only men) were selected for the jury that was charged with determining “When Where how and by What means the said, Alexander Hamilton, Came to his death.”

The jurors found that not only Burr but two co-conspirators "feloniously Wilfully and of their Malice Aforethought, did kill and Murder (Alexander Hamilton)."

Final note: Coroner Burger charged the City of New York \$5.25 for his services in the Hamilton case.

Christina VandePol

P.O. Box 204

Pocopson, PA, 19366

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