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## **Arapahoe County Coroner Employee heads to Mexico to teach Child Death Investigations to Crime Scene Investigators**

**LITTLETON, CO** --- A Medicolegal Death Investigator from the Arapahoe County Coroner's Office is heading to Oaxaca, Mexico in a few weeks to teach child death investigations to Crime Scene Investigators and Criminologists.

Elizabeth Ortiz, who is bilingual and fluent in Spanish, will be teaching a group of professional criminologists at the Forensic Institute of Investigations, Latin America (Forense de Investigaciones Latinoamerica) in Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico, from November 29-December 2. Ortiz will conduct her teaching in Spanish, as well as translating for other instructors from throughout the U.S.

"I cannot express how honored I am to have been chosen to represent Arapahoe County at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Congressional Meeting for Criminologists and Forensic Sciences," stated Elizabeth Ortiz. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share my knowledge in my native language about how to investigate child deaths."

Ortiz worked for the Arapahoe County Coroner's Office from 1992-1999 as a Pathologist Assistant. She returned to the County in 2006 as a Medicolegal Death Investigator. In 2013, she graduated from Regis University with a Master's Degree in Criminology. Ortiz now investigates all unattended deaths in Arapahoe County and makes death announcements on site when there is no physician present. She also teaches child death investigations to local law enforcement agencies throughout Colorado.

**Media Opportunity:** Ortiz is available for media interviews and can walk reporters through a child death investigation with doll reenactments at the Arapahoe County Coroner's Office. She will illustrate how she conducts her interviews with parents who have lost a child at home in a SIDS death or have left a child unattended in a hot car where the child has died.

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