POLICY/PURPOSE:
It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Police Department that all major cases involving death, suspicious missing persons, and other crimes that carry either no statute of limitations or an extended time limitation, will be investigated until solved or all leads are closed.

The purpose of Cold Case Investigations is to provide ongoing review and investigation of serious cases in which investigators have exhausted leads or the cases have not been accepted for prosecution. Unsolved, unprosecuted homicides and suspicious missing person’s cases are examples of cold cases.

DEFINITIONS [42.2.9A]:
Cold Case – Any criminal investigation that has not been solved for a period of at least one (1) year and has been inactivated may be designated as a cold case. A cold case may be held for reasons such as current technology is not present to analyze evidence to form a conclusion, uncooperative witnesses or lack of leads.

PROCEDURE:
Upon receiving a major case, the assigned Investigator will investigate all available leads until the case is solved. If no new information is received after a period of one (1) year, the case will be classified as a cold case and remain “open,” but inactive until new information is developed.

If a case becomes “cold” while assigned to an investigator, that assigned investigator will remain on the case for the duration of their tenure in Criminal Investigative Division (CID) or until the Commander in CID chooses to reassign the case.

Upon original Investigator transfer from CID, the case will be reassigned for continued follow up.

Strategy:
Investigators and others are assigned specific cases for them to review. The review would explore possible avenues of further investigation taking into consideration information, methods, and resources available during the initial investigation as well as current resources and advancements in forensic sciences not available at the time the crime was investigated. A plan would be developed to do additional interviews and evidence processing when warranted. This plan would be reviewed with a CID Supervisor prior to implementation.

Files:
Cold case files will remain in the Criminal Investigative Division.

Outside access to the cold case files can only occur after the approval of a CID Supervisor.
Staffing:
Cold cases may be assigned to an active CID Investigator. They may be teamed with various available resources including, but not limited to active CID personnel, active CSU personnel, a County Attorney representative, and retired volunteer investigators. The retired volunteer investigators will be selected from a pool of Cedar Rapids Police Department certified volunteers based on their specific skills and talents.

Evaluation Criteria [42.2.9b]:
The Commander will assign cold cases to Investigators for follow up using the following criteria:
- Experience of the Investigator
- Investigator’s area of expertise and training
- Investigator’s current case load
- New information and technology available
- Existing evidence and its quality
- Availability of witnesses, suspect(s), and original investigators
- Age of the case

Recording Investigative Actions and Activities [42.2.9c]:
Investigators assigned to a cold case will review the original case files and determine if there is any new information or technology available that would provide new leads.

Any additional investigation on a cold case will be documented to Cedar Rapids Police Department standards utilizing the current record-keeping system.

The CID Supervisor will conduct an annual review of each case and provide a report to the Criminal Investigation Division Commander.