

GENERAL OFFICE MEMORANDUM 25-048

TO: ALL DISTRICT ATTORNEY PERSONNEL

FROM: STEVEN I. KATZ SK  
Chief Deputy District Attorney

SUBJECT: DRUG-RELATED HOMICIDE CASES

DATE: APRIL 4, 2025

In an effort to maintain consistency in the handling of criminal investigations in which a death resulted from the ingestion of a controlled substance, all drug-related homicide cases are to be referred to the Major Narcotics Division for review. Drug-related homicide cases include matters in which a narcotic such as fentanyl or methamphetamine was furnished to someone whose death resulted from the use of the drug(s), and cases in which a suspect is otherwise believed to have engaged in conduct that led to a drug-related fatality.

Except as directed by Office Administration, the Major Narcotics Division will be responsible for determining whether criminal charges will be filed in drug-related homicide cases and, if so, the appropriate charges. At the discretion of the Director of Specialized Prosecutions, filed drug-related homicide cases may be transferred to Line Operations for handling, decisions that will be based on the complexity of the case, available resources, and other relevant factors.

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