

**SUMMARY OF FAILURES OF THE HON BRUCE KAPLAN  
COUNTY PROSECUTOR, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ**

1. Failed to conduct the mandatory investigation of a suspicious death.
2. Failed to coordinate with the County Medical Examiner for the removal and safekeeping of the body of the decedent once notified that the death was suspicious; the body of the decedent was moved by the [REDACTED] earlier in the evening to a private funeral home for cremation the next morning.
3. Failed to direct the County Medical Examiner to inspect the alleged crime scene after the report of a suspicious death; based on the allegations made by William H. Strouse, it would be clear to the Medical Examiner what kinds of evidence needed to be obtained.
4. Failed to recover physical evidence from the crime scene appropriate for the crime reported, such as nutrition directions, medication bottles or prescriptions; food appropriate for someone in the decedent's condition, and so on.
5. Failed to interview witnesses such as [REDACTED] William H. Strouse, Carolyn Ausley, [REDACTED] among others,
6. Failed to interview the target or suspect [REDACTED]
7. Though notified of a suspicious death by the County Medical Examiner, the County Prosecutor failed to initiate the mandated investigation into the suspicious death of Joyce B. (Strouse) Sauter.
8. Failed to obtain from the County Medical Examiner any information regarding the cause of death obtained from the scene, including names and addresses of witnesses or family members who may have information regarding the suspicious death. In this case, such names would have included [REDACTED] Carolyn Ausley, and William H. Strouse.
9. Failed to obtain any information from the Medical Examiner about the alleged suspect or target of the crime, [REDACTED] who is also a former police officer.
10. Upon learning that the cause of death of Joyce B. (Strouse) Sauter was no longer certain beyond a reasonable doubt, the Prosecutor failed to obtain a copy of the full report of the Medical Examiner regarding the suspicious death.
11. Failed to receive a copy of the autopsy report from the Medical Examiner as part of the Prosecutor's ongoing investigation required by law, either immediately after completion or not to exceed the 90 days permitted in the law.