

Captain Dan Zientek

Captain Zientek, a Texas peace officer since 1991, promoted through the ranks to Sergeant in Harris County. At Harris County, he was assigned to patrol, DWI task force, and Investigations. In 2006, Captain Zientek moved to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office where he started on patrol and quickly moved to the Criminal Investigation Division. In 2008, he was selected as a founding member of the Major Crimes Unit that focused on homicide and serious bodily injury cases. During this time, Dan was deputized by The US Marshall's office as a part time Federal officer assigned to the FBI safe street task force that focused on bank and armed robberies. He continued to promote through the ranks as Lieutenant over Major Crimes before moving to Montgomery County Constable Pct 3 as a Captain. In the captain role, Dan is third in command of the department and oversees the day-to-day operation of all divisions including; civil, records, patrol, property and evidence management, and the criminal investigation division which includes crimes against children and forensic computer crimes divisions. He is also part of the Montgomery County child fatality review team, human trafficking coalition and Children's advocacy center. In addition to his daily roles, Dan also serves on the Montgomery County Technology committee to evaluate law enforcement technology for the county.

In 2017, Dan attended the FBI National Academy program at Quantico, VA. He has also completed the FBI-LEEDA leadership program as well as graduated from the Bill Blackwood Leadership Command College (LEMIT - Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas) through Sam Houston State University. While at LEMIT he published a white paper titled "Framework for Accountability in Criminal investigations." Dan currently holds a Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University, and is now pursuing a Masters of Science in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management at Sam Houston State University. Dan holds TEEEX Forensic Science Academy certifications in Forensic Investigator I and II, Major Crimes Investigator, and Property and Evidence Management, and he is certified by TCOLE as a Master Peace Officer, Special Investigator and Instructor. He has received over 5000 hours of crime scene forensics, criminal investigations and leadership training.

In 2008, Dan became an adjunct instructor for TEEEX Forensic Science Academy, a division of Texas A&M University. He assisted in the creation and development of both online and face-to-face investigative courses as a subject matter expert, and contributes ongoing feedback to ensure quality and timely legislative updates. Through TEEEX, he teaches Criminal Investigations, Death Investigations and Forensic Photography to crime scene investigators and detectives. Aside from teaching, he also shares his expertise at law enforcement conferences, presenting on subjects including accountability in criminal investigations, and using technologies such as Excel, Crystal Reports, and RMS systems within a law enforcement lens.

Dan currently serves as Sergeant at Arms on the Texas Division of the IAI board, is the social media coordinator for the International Association for Identification, and serves on the ethics committee for the Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction. He is the President of the Motorola Spillman Flex Texas User group and also serves on the board for the Texas Association of Property and Evidence Inventory. As a member of the TAPET legislative committee, he has worked with state representatives to create new laws and testified before state legislative committees.