

SENIOR MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is technical, paraprofessional work involving on-the-scene investigations of death, follow-up field investigations, autopsy and laboratory work to aid the Medical Examiner in determining causes of unnatural and unattended deaths. The work is distinguished from that of a Medical Investigator by the level of independent judgment exercised and by the complexity of assignments. The work is performed under the direction of the Medical Examiner and work guidance (e.g. lead work) is provided to a small number of Medical Investigators. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Assigns duties and schedules of Medical Investigators and reviews their reports;
Directs the laboratory and photography aspects of sub-professional Medical Investigators and troubleshoots problems that occur in the laboratory phases;
Investigates death scenes to collect facts and data and to make diagrams and take body and scene temperatures;
Arranges for or removes bodies from the scene of death;
Makes field investigations of facts surrounding death including police records, hospital records, committals, mental status, financial problems, events leading to death and facts leading to victim identification;
Makes complete external body descriptions including characteristics, condition, measurements and wound descriptions and measurements;
Makes body openings, removes organs, ties vessels, sutures, etc.;
Collects bile, blood, urine, brain and kidney specimens, semen, hair, fingernail debris, etc. for toxicological and criminalistic analyses;
Performs on-the-scene and autopsy photography;
Arranges for inquests and acts as liaison with funeral directors and law enforcement and government agencies;
Gives testimony in court;
Provides guidance to medical investigators and mortuary staff;
Identifies continued education and/or training classes for investigative personnel, as needed;
Performs research which may involve statistical studies.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of anatomy; good knowledge of pathology; good knowledge of the principles and practices involved in the performance of autopsies and the chemical examinations of body tissues, fluids, secretion and organ contents; ability to investigate and recreate events leading to death; ability to direct the work of others engaged in the investigation of death; ability to record, organize, analyze and present data; ability to interact with family members in emotional situations.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: A Bachelor's degree or higher in Forensic Science, Police Science, Criminal Justice, Mortuary Science, or comparable curriculum and two (2) years of non-clerical experience conducting post-mortem investigations and/or examinations* with a Medical Examiner's/Coroner's Office.

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*Investigative/examination experience shall include collection and/or evaluation of facts, evidence, allegations or other information related to a death and/or scene thereof, or assisting during autopsy examination, which includes but is not limited to placing decedent body on table, assisting pathologist with organ removal and incisions, written and/or photographic documentation and post-examination clean-up. (Examples of titles for which the required investigations/examinations would have been gained include Medicolegal/Medical/Forensic Death Investigators, Coroner, Autopsy/Mortuary Technicians, or Autopsy Assistant).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Possession of a valid motor vehicle license or accessibility to transportation to meet field work requirements in a timely and efficient manner.

PROMOTION: One (1) year of permanent status as a Medical Investigator.