

MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is technical, paraprofessional work involving on the scene investigation of deaths, including follow-up field inquiries, autopsies and laboratory analyses, to assist the Medical Examiner in determining causes of unnatural and unattended deaths. The work is performed under the direction of the Medical Examiner and/or a higher-level medical investigator. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Collects facts and data surrounding death (e.g., receives initial reports of death, notes presence of injury, suspicious circumstances, etc.) to determine medical examiner jurisdiction or release of case;
Conducts death scene investigations including, but not limited to, documentation of the scene and appearance of the body (e.g., information relevant to determining time, cause, manner or circumstances of death);
Oversees the transport of human remains to the medical examiner's morgue, ensuring proper storage and handling;
Assists with pre-autopsy procedures, including identification, radiography, specimen collection, etc.;
Oversees and participates in autopsies including, but not limited to, documentation of weights and measurements, photography, incisions, organ removal, etc.;
Gathers ante-mortem and history, including medical/hospital and police records;
Arranges for release of body to funeral director;
Prepares investigative reports and associated documentation.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of anatomy; good knowledge of investigative principles and techniques; working knowledge of pathology; working knowledge of the principles and practices involved in the performance of autopsies and the chemical examination of body tissues, fluids, secretion and organ contents; ability to investigate and recreate events leading to death; ability to record, organize, analyze and present data with scientific accuracy and thoroughness; ability to interact with family members in emotional situations; ability to prepare reports and documentation.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

1. A Bachelor's degree or higher in Forensic Science, Police Science, Criminal Justice, Mortuary Science, or comparable curriculum and one (1) year of non-clerical experience conducting post-mortem investigations and/or examinations* with a Medical Examiner's/Coroner's Office; or
2. An Associate's degree in Forensic Science, Police Science, Criminal Justice, Mortuary Science, or comparable curriculum and three (3) years of non-clerical experience conducting post-mortem investigations and/or examinations* with a Medical Examiner's/Coroner's Office.

*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 a decedent's 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 REQUIREMENT: Possession of a valid motor vehicle license or accessibility to transportation to meet field work requirements in a timely and efficient manner.