



Office of Human Resources  
Forensic Pathologist - CO2721  
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### General Statement of Duties

Assists in the operations and activities of the Office of Medical Examiner including the investigation and evaluation of deaths within the city that fall under the jurisdiction of the coroner, planning for the office, and the development and execution of policies, procedures, and performance criteria for office operations.

### Distinguishing Characteristics

This class assists in the operations and activities of the Office of Medical Examiner including the investigation and evaluation of deaths within the city that fall under the jurisdiction of the coroner, planning for the office, and the development and execution of policies, procedures, and performance criteria for office operations. This class is distinguished from the Chief Medical Examiner/Coroner that directs the operations and activities of the Office of Medical Examiner in the investigation and medical evaluation of all deaths within the city, provides leadership, direction, and planning for the office, and develops and executes policies, procedures, and performance criteria for office operations.

### Essential Duties

Reviews deaths reported to the Office of the Medical Examiner as required by Colorado Statute and determines which cases will require an autopsy or visual examination.

Performs medicolegal autopsies in accordance with accepted standards in the recognized medical specialty of forensic pathology.

Orders and interprets necessary diagnostic tests to aid in the diagnosis of disease and non-natural pathology, understands the effects of postmortem interval on laboratory test results, and determines the cause and manner of death.

Shares on-call responsibilities with other staff physicians, responds to homicide or other suspicious death scenes as requested by the Medical Examiner investigator, and consults on the release of organs and tissue for recovery by procurement agencies.

Gives testimony as to the cause of death and renders expert opinions in a variety of legal forums, both criminal and civil.

Collects evidence and preserves it using accepted chain of custody procedures, documents findings at autopsy including pertinent traumatic injuries in the form of a written report, and photographs pertinent findings and traumatic injuries.

Consults with medical experts as necessary to aid in the determination of the cause of death.

Meets and/or confers with attorneys, law enforcement, and health professionals to discuss the autopsy findings and investigation.

Meets and/or speaks with families to discuss the results of the autopsy and the particulars of the death investigation and communicates with the media and other interested parties about the autopsy report.

Assists in the education and training of medical students, residents, interns, and others in the function of the Medical Examiner/Coroner and in forensic pathology.

Assists in the planning and participation of research activities that the office collaborates on.

Assists the Chief Medical Examiner in assessing the quality of services provided, helps ensure that staff and visitors conform with office and department safety policies at scenes and in the autopsy room, and assists in the development of office safety policies and in the development of office emergency preparedness plans.

Assists in the collaboration with local, regional, and state law enforcement, investigative, legal, and medical agencies including public health.

Actively participate on the Department's emergency preparedness and response team(s) to support meeting the Department's public health and environmental responsibilities outlined in the City's Emergency Operations Plan.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

Any one position may not include all of the duties listed. However, the allocation of positions will be determined by the amount of time spent in performing the essential duties listed above.

### Competencies

Information Management - Identifies a need for and knows where or how to gather information; organizes and maintains information or information management systems.

Interpersonal Skills - Shows understanding, friendliness, courtesy, tact, empathy, cooperation, concern, and politeness to others and relates well to different people from varied backgrounds and different situations.

Reading - Understands and interprets written material, including technical material, rules, regulations, instructions, reports, charts, graphs, or tables; applies what is learned from written material to specific situations.

Reasoning – Identifies rules, principles, or relationships that explain facts, data, or other information; analyzes information and makes correct inferences or draws accurate conclusions.

Teaching Others - Helps others learn through formal or informal methods; identifies training needs; provides constructive feedback; coaches others on how to perform tasks; acts as a mentor.

Technical Competence – Uses knowledge that is acquired through formal training or extensive on-the-job experience to perform one's job; works with, understands, and evaluates technical information related to the job; advises others on technical issues.

### Knowledge & Skills

None

### Level of Supervision Exercised

By position, performs lead work.

### Education Requirement

Graduation from an approved school of medicine plus completion of post-graduate training approved by the American Board of Pathology.

### Experience Requirement

None

**Education & Experience Equivalency**

No substitution of experience for education is permitted.

**Licensure & Certification**

Possession of a license to practice medicine in the State of Colorado at the time of appointment (or eligibility for licensure with the application process initiated) and board certification in Anatomic or Anatomic/Clinical Pathology is required at the time of application. Must be eligible to sit for the Forensic Pathology Boards at the time of appointment. Must pass the Forensic pathology boards within 18 months of employment.

Licenses and certifications must be kept current as a condition of employment.

It is a condition of employment that the Denver Police Forensics & Evidence Division form for consent for collection of a DNA sample be completed at the time of hire.

**Working Environment**

Hazards: conditions where there is danger to life, body, and/or health.  
Contact with deceased persons under wide variety of circumstances.  
Potential exposure to infection from disease-bearing specimens.  
Potential exposure to infections and contagious disease.  
Potential exposure to risk of blood borne diseases.  
Potential exposure to unpleasant elements (accidents, injuries, and illness).  
Potential exposure to hazardous chemicals.  
Occasional pressure due to multiple calls and inquiries.  
Occasionally Potential exposure to radiation hazards.  
Subject to long irregular hours.  
Subject to many interruptions.  
Subject to varying and unpredictable situations including grieving and potentially unstable individuals.

**Level of Physical Demand**

3-Medium (20-50 lbs.)

**Physical Demands**

(Physical Demands are a general guide and specific positions will vary based on working conditions, locations, and agency/department needs.):

Accommodation: Ability to bring objects into focus.  
Balancing: Maintaining equilibrium.  
Depth Perception: Ability to judge distances and space relationships.  
Eye/Hand/Foot Coordination: Performing work through using two or more body parts or other devices.  
Feeling: Perceiving attributes of objects by means of skin receptors, communication, or otherwise.  
Field of Vision: Ability to sharply detect or perceive objects peripherally.  
Fingering: Picking and pinching, through use of fingers or otherwise.  
Handling: Seizing, holding, grasping, through use of hands, fingers, or other means.  
Hearing: Perceiving and comprehending the nature and direction of sounds.  
Lifting: Moving objects weighing no more than 50 pounds from one level to another.  
Reaching: Extending the hands and arms or other device in any direction.  
Repetitive motions: Making frequent or continuous movements.  
Sitting: Remaining in a stationary position.  
Standing: Remaining in a stationary position.  
Talking: Communicating ideas or exchanging information.

Vision Far Acuity: Ability to perceive or detect objects clearly at 20 feet or more.

Vision Near Acuity: Ability to perceive or detect objects at 20 inches or less.

### Background Check Requirement

Criminal Check  
Education Check  
Licensure/Certification

### Assessment Requirement

None

### Probation Period

Six (6) months.

### Class Detail

**Pay Grade: O-825**  
**FLSA Code: Y**  
**Established Date: 9/21/2018**  
**Established By: LS**  
**Revised Date:**  
**Revised By:**  
**Class History:**