



Office of Human Resources
Forensic Pathology Fellow - CO2300
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General Statement of Duties

Performs professional medical postgraduate work in the investigation and evaluation of deaths within the city that fall under the jurisdiction of the coroner. Maximum length of service: One year.

Distinguishing Characteristics

This class performs professional medical postgraduate work in the recognized medical specialty of forensic pathology, performing medicolegal autopsies and assisting in the evaluation and investigation of non-natural and natural deaths that fall under the jurisdiction of the coroner. This class is distinguished from the Forensic Pathologist that 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.

Essential Duties

Performs work in the medical subspecialty of forensic pathology for a period of one year in a training program accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education.

Performs medicolegal autopsies, consulting with senior staff pathologists when appropriate and prepares medicolegal autopsy reports.

Determines the cause, manner, and mechanism of death and the certification of death.

Orders toxicological and other laboratory tests and interprets the results in postmortem samples.

Collects evidence from deceased persons and handles evidence to include chain of custody procedures along with forensic photography.

Shares on-call responsibilities with other staff pathologists including weekends and holidays, responds to death scenes per established OME protocol, and consults as appropriate with senior staff.

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

Meets and/or consults with families, law enforcement, attorneys, health professionals, and other interested parties as necessary to discuss autopsy findings.

Assists in the training and education of medical students, residents, and others in the functions of the medical examiner/coroner and in forensic pathology.

Participates in the identification of unknown/unidentified deceased persons using fingerprints, dental, radiographic comparison, physical anthropology, and DNA.

Participates in research and other academic activities.

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.

Learning - Uses efficient learning techniques to acquire and apply new knowledge and skills; uses training, feedback, or other opportunities for self-learning and development.

Oral Communication - Expresses information to individuals or groups effectively; taking into account the audience and nature of the information; makes clear and convincing oral presentations; listens to others, attends to nonverbal cues and responds appropriately.

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.

Knowledge & Skills

None

Level of Supervision Exercised

None

Education Requirement

Possesses an MD or DO degree from an accredited medical school.

Experience Requirement

None

Education & Experience Equivalency

No substitution of experience for education is permitted.

Licensure & Certification

Completion of ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) approved postgraduate residency program in anatomical pathology or anatomical pathology/clinical pathology by the date of the start of the fellowship term.

Must be eligible for licensure in Colorado and board certified or board eligible in anatomic pathology or anatomic/clinical pathology by the date of the start of the fellowship term.

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

Potential exposure to chemicals, gas and low-level radiation.
Potential exposure to hazardous anesthetic agents, body fluids, and bio-wastes.
Potential exposure to housekeeping/cleaning agents/chemicals.
Potential exposure to infection from disease-bearing specimens.
Potential exposure to odorous chemicals and specimens.
Potential exposure to risk of blood-borne diseases.
Potential exposure to infections and contagious diseases. Potential exposure to unpleasant elements (accidents, injuries, and illnesses).
Occasional pressure due to multiple calls and inquiries.
Subject to cuts from microtome knives.
Subject to long, irregular hours.
Subject to many interruptions.

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.):

Agility: Ability to move quickly and easily.
Balancing: Maintaining equilibrium.
Carrying: Transporting or moving an object.
Color vision: Ability to distinguish and identify different colors.
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.
Neck Flexion: Perceiving objects located above or below.
Oral Comprehension: Ability to discern the meaning of oral speech.
Pulling: Exerting force upon an object so that it is moving to the person.
Pushing: Exerting force upon an object so that it moves away from the person.
Reaching: Extending the hands and arms or other device in any direction.
Standing: Remaining in a stationary position.
Vision Near Acuity: Ability to perceive or detect objects at 20 inches or less.
Walking: Ability to move or traverse from one location to another.
Written Comprehension: Ability to discern the meaning of written words.

Background Check Requirement

Criminal Check
Education Check

Assessment Requirement

None

Probation Period

None

Class Detail

Pay Grade: O-811

FLSA Code: Y

Established Date: 9/21/2018

Established By: LS

Revised Date:

Revised By:

Class History: