



DPS-MEDICAL EXAMINER ASSISTANT I

CHARACTERISTICS OF WORK:

This is entry-level technical and professional work in the field of medico legal death and injury investigations. Crime scene, laboratory and autopsy procedures are employed to help determine the cause, manner and circumstances of injuries of violent, sudden, unexpected and suspicious deaths. Work involves postmortem examination; consultation with law enforcement officers, attorneys, coroners, toxicologists, criminologists and physicians to establish and secure medico legal evidence; and testifying in court regarding their observations. Work is performed under the supervision of the State Medical Examiner and the Director of the Mississippi Crime Laboratory.

EXAMPLES OF WORK:

Examples of work performed in this classification include, but are not limited to, the following:

Assists in collecting and conducting microscopic examinations of dead human bodies, tissues, fluids and secretions to help determine cause and circumstances of injuries and/or death using medico legal laboratory procedures on instructions of the State Medical Examiner.

Investigates death scenes to identify and preserve physical evidence to be used in determining the cause and manner of death in accordance with standard operating procedure.

Selects collection and custodial procedures for gathering evidence to ensure that evidence will be legally acceptable in accordance with the requirements of forensic analysis and legal restrictions.

Assists in the removal of tissues, anatomical portions of bodies, fluids or any item of evidence found on or in bodies in order to conduct laboratory examinations, analysis, and comparisons in accordance with standard operating procedure.

Acquires possession of any portions of bodies, objects or articles deemed useful in establishing identification of deceased in accordance with standard operating procedure.

Prepares complete report on scene investigations and other investigations when that report is not made by the State Medical Examiner or his/her designee.

Testifies at inquests, hearings and court trials as expert witness to provide information concerning findings and observations, in accordance with standard operating procedure.

May perform all or part of the duties of a Forensic Scientist, Fingerprint Examiner, or other positions within the Mississippi Crime Laboratory, as these duties may relate to investigations outlined above.

Performs related or similar duties as required or assigned.

COMPETENCIES:

The following competencies describe the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attributes that lead to a successful employee in this position. An applicant will be expected to exhibit these competencies or the ability to reach competency achievement within a specified time. These competencies are linked

to the essential functions of the job. Employees in this position may be evaluated on these competencies as part of the performance appraisal system. Example behaviors are listed below each competency and are used for illustrative purposes only. Specific behaviors may be identified and included later by the hiring agency. It is understood that some of these behaviors might not be acquired until a reasonable time after hire. Failure of an employee to successfully demonstrate some or all of these competencies, as deemed important by his or her reporting official, may result in the employee being placed on a performance improvement plan. If after a reasonable period of time, usually three (3) months, the employee fails to demonstrate successful performance, the employee may be terminated. These competencies include, but are not limited to, the following:

PUBLIC SECTOR COMPETENCIES:

Integrity: Demonstrates a sense of responsibility and commitment to the public trust through statements and actions.

Models and demonstrates high standards of integrity, trust, openness, and respect for others. Demonstrates integrity by honoring commitments and promises. Demonstrates integrity by maintaining necessary confidentiality.

Work Ethic: Is productive, diligent, conscientious, timely, and loyal.

Conscientiously abides by the rules, regulations, and procedures governing work. Meets deadlines. Work product is of a high quality. Follows through on assigned tasks until they are completed correctly. Takes ownership of tasks and duties.

Service Orientation: Demonstrates a commitment to quality public service through statements and actions.

Seeks to understand and meet and/or exceed the needs and expectations of customers. Treats customers with respect, responding to requests in a professional manner, even in difficult circumstances. Provides accurate and timely service. Develops positive relationships with customers. Obtains first-hand customer information and uses it to improve projects and/or services.

Accountability: Accepts responsibility for actions and results.

Is productive and carries fair share of the workload. Focuses on quality and expends the necessary time and effort to achieve goals. Demonstrates loyalty to the job and the agency and is a good steward for state assets. Steadfastly persists in overcoming obstacles and pushes self for results. Maintains necessary attention to detail to achieve high level performance. Deals effectively with pressure and recovers quickly from setbacks. Takes ownership of tasks, performance standards and mistakes. Knows the organization's mission and functions and how it fits into state government.

Self Management Skills: Effectively manages emotions and impulses and maintains a positive attitude.

Encourage and facilitates cooperation, pride, trust and group identity. Fosters commitment and team spirit. Works effectively and cooperatively with others to achieve goals. Treats all people with respect, courtesy, and consideration. Communicates effectively. Remains open to new ideas and approaches. Avoids conflicts of interest. Promotes cooperation and teamwork. Continuously evaluates, adapts, and copes effectively with change. Allows self and others to make mistakes and learns from those mistakes. Adheres to high ethical standards.

Interpersonal Skills: Shows understanding, courtesy, tact, empathy, and concern to develop and maintain relationships.

Demonstrates cross-cultural sensitivity and understanding. Identifies and seeks to solve problems and prevent or resolve conflict issues. Encourages others through positive reinforcement. Expresses facts and ideas both verbally and in writing in a clear, convincing and organized manner, helping others translate vision into action. Models appropriate behavior. Recognizes and develops potential in others; mentors. Builds constructive and effective relationships.

Communication Skills: Receives, attends to, interprets, and responds to verbal messages and expresses information to individuals or groups effectively.

Receives nonverbal cues, such as body language in ways that are appropriate to listeners and situations. Takes into account the audience and nature of the information. Listens to others and responds appropriately. May make oral presentations. Communicates ideas, suggestions and concerns as well as outcomes and progress throughout the course of an activity. Provides thorough and accurate information. Can accurately restate the opinions of others even when he/she disagrees.

Self-Development: Adapts behavior or work methods in response to new information, changing conditions, or unexpected obstacles.

Seeks efficient learning techniques to acquire and apply new knowledge and skills. Uses training, feedback, or other opportunities for self-learning and development. Develops and enhances skills to adapt to changing organizational needs. Remains open to change and new information and ideas. Is committed to and actively works to continuously improve himself/herself.

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES:

Technical Proficiency: The ability and willingness to exhibit competency in the technical areas needed to do a specific job.

Reads, comprehends, and correctly applies all rules, regulations, and policies applicable to work assignments. Performs work with a minimum amount of supervision in areas that are familiar.

Workflow Management: The ability and willingness to perform work within defined specifications and timelines and to manage conflicting priorities.

Operates under specific time constraints and within specified deadlines. Effectively prioritizes tasks in order to meet deadlines. Works on appropriate priorities to get the job done.

Problem Solving/Decision Making: The ability and willingness to cooperate with other employees in identifying and solving problems in order to effectively and efficiently complete assigned tasks

Exhibits ability to identify and address issues. Ensures that all problems encountered are addressed at the appropriate level and communicates all relevant information on a timely basis with accuracy and completeness. Exercises sound reasoning. Displays the ability and willingness to work with other offices or other divisions in order to collectively complete assigned tasks or problems as that arise.

Stakeholder Relations: The ability and willingness to interact and communicate effectively with stakeholders.

Proactively provides stakeholders with proper information in an effort to reduce occurrences of future

problems. Supports the agency mission and goals in all interactions with internal and external stakeholders. Acts as an advocate for agency policy.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

Additional essential functions may be identified and included by the hiring agency. The essential functions include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Conducts thorough investigations of death scenes and prepares reports on findings.
2. Conducts examinations in accordance with standard operating procedure of dead human bodies, tissue, fluids and secretions to determine the cause and circumstances of death.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

These minimum qualifications have been agreed upon by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in this job class and are based upon a job analysis and the essential functions. However, if a candidate believes he/she is qualified for the job although he/she does not have the minimum qualifications set forth below, he/she may request special consideration through substitution of related education and experience, demonstrating the ability to perform the essential functions of the position. Any request to substitute related education or experience for minimum qualifications must be addressed to the State Personnel Board in writing, identifying the related education and experience which demonstrates the candidate's ability to perform all essential functions of the position.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: These physical requirements are not exhaustive, and additional job related physical requirements may be added to these by individual agencies on an as needed basis. Corrective devices may be used to meet physical requirements. These are typical requirements; however, reasonable accommodation may be possible.

Moderate Work: May frequently exert force equivalent to lifting up to approximately 25 pounds and/or occasionally exert force equivalent to lifting up to approximately 50 pounds.

Vision: Requires the ability to perceive the nature of objects by the eye.

Near Acuity: Clarity of vision at 20 inches or less.

Midrange: Clarity of vision at distances of more than 20 inches and less than 20 feet.

Far Acuity: Clarity of vision at 20 feet or more.

Depth Perception: Three-dimensional vision. Ability to judge distance and space relationships so as to see objects where and as they actually are.

Accommodation: Ability to adjust focus.

Color Vision: Ability to identify colors.

Speaking/Hearing: Ability to give and receive information through speaking and listening skills.

Taste/Smell: Ability to use the sense of smell to recognize and distinguish odors. Ability to use the sense of taste to recognize and distinguish flavors.

Motor Coordination:

While performing the duties of this job, the incumbent is regularly required to stand; walk; reach with hands or arms; and use hands to finger, handle or feel objects, tools or controls. The incumbent is

frequently required to sit; and stoop, kneel, crouch or bend. The incumbent is occasionally required to climb or balance.

EXPERIENCE/EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

Education:

A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited four-year college or university in criminal justice, forensic science, pathology assistance, chemistry, biology, medical technology or pharmacology;

OR

Education:

Graduation from a standard four-year high school or equivalent (GED);

AND

Experience:

Four (4) years of experience in work directly related to the above-described duties.

Substitution Statement:

Above graduation from a standard four-year high school or equivalent (GED), directly related education and directly related experience may be substituted on an equal basis.

INTERVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

Any candidate who is called to an agency for an interview must notify the interviewing agency in writing of any reasonable accommodation needed prior to the date of the interview.

Additional essential functions and behavioral anchors may be identified and included by the hiring agency.