

Code: 4249

Title: PATHOLOGIST ASSISTANT

SUMMARY:

Pathologist Assistants participate in the medico-legal activities of the Office of the Medical Examiner by assisting in procedural examinations and identifying and documenting human remains.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: (Work assignments may vary depending on the department's needs and will be communicated to the applicant or incumbent by the supervisor.)

Assists pathologist with clinical pathological procedures;
Receives, prepares, stores, and releases cadavers;
Records physical information about cadavers such as height, weight, and temperature;
Participates in autopsy procedures by making and closing incisions, eviscerating organs, and collecting specimens at the direction of a pathologist;
Verifies and documents all human remains, property, and evidence received;
Obtains and labels trace collections, specimens, and evidence for law enforcement agencies;
Prepares and maintains paraffin, reagents, solutions, and stains according to standard formulas;
Takes and develops clinical, surgical, and other photographs;
Maintains sanitary conditions of the facility, equipment and instruments, and ensures safe disposal of biological and biohazardous materials;
Operates various equipment such as scales, autopsy saw, aspirator, x-ray machine and processor, and cameras;
Maintains inventory of supplies, keeps records and files, and performs other routine clerical duties.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:

Knowledge of:

- . human visceral anatomy, physiology, and pathology;
- . autopsy procedures;
- . special instruments and equipment used in a forensic laboratory including standard x ray procedures and darkroom techniques;
- . procedures and techniques used to collect, process, and store specimens.

Skill in:

- . assisting pathologists with technical autopsy procedures;
- . understanding and following oral and written instructions;
- . communicating effectively, both orally and in writing;
- . working with medical instruments and laboratory equipment;
- . maintaining logs and records.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Two years of experience in a medical setting assisting with surgeries or autopsies, performing pathological laboratory work, or a closely related field.

(Graduation from an approved course of instruction in embalming may substitute for the aforementioned experience.)

(Additional relevant education in anatomy, physiology, chemistry, biological science, and/or a closely related field may be substituted for a portion of the aforementioned experience.)

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Special Requirements:

Ability to independently move and manipulate heavy objects and work with noxious odors.

Licenses and Certificates:

A valid Class D Arizona driver's license is required at time of appointment.

Physical/Sensory Requirements:

Physical and sensory abilities will be determined by position.

Special Notice Items:

Department of Labor regulation CFR Part 1910.1030 requires notification that this category may have a high risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. In accordance with OSHA and Pima County guidelines and regulations, Hepatitis B vaccine, tuberculosis screening, and respiratory protection training and safety equipment will be provided.

This class specification is intended to indicate the basic nature of positions allocated to the class and examples of typical duties that may be assigned. It does not imply that all positions within the class perform all of the duties listed, nor does it necessarily list all possible duties that may be assigned.