

Code: 7427

Title: FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST – UNCLASSIFIED

**SUMMARY:** Performs and documents medicolegal autopsies and investigations to determine the cause and nature of unattended or unnatural deaths occurring within the jurisdiction of Pima County or, through Inter Governmental Agreements (IGA) with other jurisdictions, deaths occurring in other jurisdictions. This is appointed, unclassified and exempt from the rules of the Pima County Merit System.

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

Responds to and assists law enforcement agencies in the evaluation of death scenes;  
Eviscerates, dissects and examines individual body organs and documents significant findings;  
Microscopically examines tissues, reviews toxicological results and correlates findings with autopsy examinations to determine cause and manner of death;  
Initiates and authorizes preparation and issuance of death certificates;  
Reviews death certificates and approves permits for cremation of human remains;  
Secures and maintains records of, all medications and related property of deceased according to established procedures and appropriate county, state and federal laws, rules and regulations;  
Maintains close and continuing positive working relationships with law enforcement, public health and other agencies to promote cooperation and communications on matters of mutual interest;  
Supervises, trains and evaluates support staff;  
Provides technical and medical information regarding trauma, medicolegal matters and similar topics to law enforcement agencies and personnel;  
Testifies in court and at Grand Jury regarding autopsy findings and determinations;  
Creates manual, automated and computerized records of medicolegal activities in compliance with county, state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

**KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:**

Knowledge of:

- theories, principles and practices of anatomic and forensic pathology, anatomy and physiology;
- crime scene evaluation, legal jurisdiction and responsibilities of the Office of the Medical Examiner;
- local, county, state and federal laws, rules and regulations for forensic pathology and medicolegal investigations;
- principles and practices of employee supervision, training and evaluation.

Skill in:

- recognizing and delineating medical findings of potential medicolegal significance;
- performing autopsies and associated tests and examinations and correlating findings to arrive at defensible conclusions;
- communicating effectively;
- supervising, training and evaluating professional, paraprofessional and clerical staff;
- testifying in court and before Grand Jury panels relative to medicolegal findings.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Graduation from an accredited school of medicine, completion of internship and residency and two years of experience performing medicolegal autopsies.

(Additional relevant education from an accredited college or university may substitute for one year of the required experience)

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Licenses and Certificates: Possession of a valid license to practice medicine in the State of Arizona and certification in forensic pathology by the American Board of Pathology is required at the time of appointment or within three years of appointment as a condition of employment; failure to obtain and maintain such licensure and certification shall be grounds for termination. Possession of a valid Class D Arizona driver's license may be required at the time of appointment or prior to completion of initial/promotional probation.

Special Notice Items: Department of Labor regulation CFR 1910.1030 requires notification that this category may have a high risk of exposure to blood borne pathogens. Hepatitis B vaccine will be provided.

Physical/Sensory Requirements: Physical and sensory abilities will be determined by position.

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.

Pima County

6/01/89  
Updated 5/5/09(kf)