FORENSIC LABORATORY TECHNICIAN I

Definition:

Under supervision, assists in the processing and examination of evidence; performs routine chemical or biological examinations; operates laboratory equipment as directed.

Distinguishing Characteristics

This is the entry level of the Forensic Laboratory Technician series. It is distinguished from Forensic Laboratory Technician II in that incumbents receive close direct supervision from criminalist staff and are not expected to act independently. Promotion to the Forensic Laboratory Technician II level is considered on a merit basis subject to recommendation by the Department Head and approval of the Director of Personnel.

Essential Functions:

- Prepares chemical regents and sterile solutions.
- Performs routine standardized chemical examinations such as: drugs of abuse screens and confirmations, forensic alcohol analysis, or analysis of routine solid dosage drugs.
- Performs routine standardized forensic biology examinations such as: preliminary examinations of evidence and paternity DNA examinations.
- Performs quality assurance functions including calibration, validation, repair and cleaning of scientific instruments and equipment.
- Cleans laboratory work areas; cleans glassware and other laboratory equipment; maintains laboratory in an orderly and sanitary condition.
- Assists Criminalists in the examination or processing of evidence.
- Prepares specimens for labeling, routing to staff, mailing, or transfer.
- Maintains inventory of laboratory supplies.
- Maintains proper records; generates files; uses a computer to enter reports and logs.
- Testifies in court regarding work performed in the laboratory.
- Performs evidence control for laboratory; receives, itemizes, and logs items of evidence, transfers items of evidence to and from evidence control; disposes of hazardous or infectious materials.
- Coordinates DNA casework.
- Destroys test samples and files as instructed.
- Collects samples for DNA analysis**.**
- Performs other job-related duties as assigned.

Employment Standards:

A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in a physical or natural science, forensic science, or a closely related laboratory science. Course work must have included a laboratory component and 16 semester or 20 quarter units of general, organic and inorganic chemistry OR general biology, biochemistry, and genetics. Six months of analytical experience performing chemical or biological analysis may be substituted for the equivalent of 1 academic course.

Possession of a valid California Drivers license.

Knowledge of: the theoretical and analytical principles of natural and physical sciences and the ability to apply principles to scientific examinations in a forensic laboratory; laboratory safety practices; use and care of instruments and scientific equipment.

Ability to: learn and apply evidence collection and preservation procedures; perform routine and repetitive laboratory tasks; establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Physical Requirements: Ability to label small items of evidence, pipet small volumes, use small objects, or tools; repair or service instruments having numerous small parts and identify and distinguish color.

Background Requirements: Applicants must be able to pass a background investigation and shall not have been convicted of a felony in the State of California, or in any state, or any federal jurisdiction, or of any offense, which would have been a felony if committed in this state. The background evaluation may include a criminal record check, a credit history check, a driving record check, and a polygraph examination.

All Kern County employees are designated "Disaster Service Workers" through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec. 3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services). As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report for work as soon as practicable, following a significant emergency or disaster.

Revised
May 2008
#1693
JS1693