

AUTOPSY ASSISTANT

Definition:

Under supervision, assists physicians in conducting autopsies and department staff members who are primarily engaged in performing investigative services relating to cases of death that are within the jurisdiction of the Coroner's Division of the Sheriff's Office.

Essential Functions:

- Assists Deputy Coroner with calls where there is death by violence or death for which a licensed physician will not sign the death certificate.
- Retrieves bodies and property; transports bodies from morgue to examination tables.
- Obtains charts and medical histories; keeps records and performs clerical tasks.
- Weighs, measures and externally examines bodies; examines bodies for identifying marks.
- Labels specimen containers and transfers tissues for microscope examination; prepares files slides.
- Assists physicians in extracting all internal organs and the brain; weighs all organs and records the figures; washes bodies after the completion of autopsies.
- Informs investigators and detectives of the scheduled time for postmortem examinations when homicide is the suspected cause of death.
- Releases retrieved projectiles to investigating officers in homicide cases.
- Secures all records, x-rays and blood samples.
- Sterilizes and replaces surgical instruments used in autopsies.
- Performs other job related duties as assigned.

Employment Standards:

High School Diploma, G.E.D. or equivalent AND one (1) year experience working directly with decedents or patients in hospitals, emergency medical services, funeral homes or other related experience requiring knowledge of medical terminology and human anatomy. Completion of college course work in anatomy physiology, biology and medical terminology may substitute for one (1) year of experience.

Knowledge of: location of organs in the human body; use and maintenance of apparatus and instruments used in performing autopsies; customer service principles.

Ability to: use of surgical instruments; understand and apply basic criminal investigative techniques, criminal law and rules of evidence; and, communicating both orally and in writing sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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.