**Class Summary**

The responsibilities of this classification include learning to perform forensic pathology autopsies and post-mortem examinations to determine the cause and manner of death and learning to collect evidence for legal investigations under the direction of an Associate or high-level Medical Examiner. This is a training level classification, and the incumbent performs duties under direction.

**Distinguishing Characteristics**

This is the first level within the three-level classification series. The Assistant Medical Examiner/Forensic Pathology Trainee classification is distinguished from the Associate Medical Examiner in that the incumbent in the Associate Medical Examiner is training medical students, residents, and Assistant Medical Examiners to perform forensic pathology autopsies and post-mortem examinations.

This classification is distinguished from the Chief Medical Examiner in that the incumbent is not responsible for the overall management of the Medical Examiner’s office within the Seattle/King County Department of Public Health.

This classification is distinguished from the Forensic Medicolegal Death Investigator series in that the Assistant Medical Examiner/Forensic Pathology Trainee must have knowledge of medical practice with a specialty in forensic pathology, while the Forensic Medicolegal Death Investigator’s primary responsibilities are to identify remains, locate next of kin, collect evidence at death scenes, and facilitate disposal of remains.

**Examples of Duties**

1. Learn to conduct forensic autopsies and post-mortem examinations and determine and certify the cause and manner of death under direct supervision.
2. Consult with attorneys and testify in court.
3. Coordinate the collection of research information for publication in scientific journals.
4. Perform other duties as assigned.

**Knowledge/Skills**

Knowledge of the practice of medicine, pathology, forensic pathology, and toxicology

Skill in oral and written communication

Skill in technical (scientific) writing

Skill in interpretation, analysis, and research

Ability to effectively engage in and sustain relationships with people from diverse cultures and socio-economic backgrounds

Ability to work independently and as a team member

Demonstrated proficiency with business applications, such as Microsoft Office suite

**Education and Experience Requirements**

And any combination of education and experience that clearly demonstrates the ability to perform the job duties of the position

**Licensing, Certification, and Other Requirements**

Washington State Medical License

Some licenses, certifications, and other requirements determined to be necessary to meet the business needs of the employing unit may be required

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| **FLSA Designation** | Exempt (Professional) |
| **Service Status** | Appointed  |
| **EEO Code** | 2 |
| **Levels within the same series** | Assistant Medical Examiner/Forensic Pathology Trainee, Associate Medical Examiner, and Chief Medical Examiner |
| Class History | 11/1996 – Created02/2003 – Updated12/2007 – Updated changed font and format06/2023 – Updated distinguishing characteristics |