

MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATOR (OCME)

General Statement of Duties and Responsibilities

This class of positions encompasses professional responsibilities of varying degrees of difficulty in the performance of investigations of death to obtain a factual history and record of events with emphasis on manner and circumstance of death. There are two Assignment Levels within this class of positions. All personnel perform related work and drive vehicles as necessary to carry out assigned duties and responsibilities. The following are typical assignments within this class of positions.

Assignment Level I

Under direction, conducts investigations of deaths.

Examples of Typical Tasks

Interviews witnesses to obtain information useful to the Medical Examiner's Office.

Observes the death scene; prepares detailed descriptions.

Examines and takes possession of bodies, and supervises their transport to the Medical Examiner's Office.

Identifies and establishes evidentiary value of items and determines which items are to be taken into evidence.

Documents evidence and directs its removal, while safeguarding its quality, and establishes and maintains chain of evidence.

Obtains or coordinates positive identification of bodies through visual personal identification affidavit, x-ray, dental records, descriptive evidence and fingerprint records.

Investigates death as required for cremation clearance.

Identifies immediate life threatening conditions and takes/coordinates action to remove hazards.
Testifies in court.

Provides information to family and authorized others as to cause of death, manner and circumstances as determined, thus providing counseling, understanding, and education.

Performs follow-up investigations and interviews within well-defined parameters, as assigned.

Recommends release or maintenance of jurisdiction over bodies based upon preliminary investigation.

MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATOR (OCME) (continued)

Assignment Level I (continued)

Examples of Typical Tasks (continued)

Prepares detailed reports for executive review.

Maintains records regarding investigations.

Assignment Level II

In addition to performing duties described in Assignment Level I, under general direction, conducts investigations of the most difficult and complex nature, such as of deaths resulting from suicidal, homicidal, criminal, suspicious, or undetermined causes.

Examples of Typical Tasks

Trains and supervises the work of Medicolegal Investigators at Assignment Level I.

Independently identifies the need for follow-up investigations, and defines the scope of such investigations; performs related investigations and interviews, as necessary.

Testifies in court, particularly regarding cases which require greater expertise or professional judgment, and which may be of a sensitive or complex nature.

Qualification Requirements

1. A New York State license as a Physician Assistant with current Registration Certificate issued by New York State, plus either
 - a. Certification as a Physician Assistant by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) and two years of experience as a registered Physician Assistant; or
 - b. Four years of experience as a registered Physician Assistant;

NOTE: Possession of an advanced degree in a health related field, or acceptable health related work experience prior to physician assistant education, may be substituted for up to six months of experience as a registered Physician Assistant.

MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATOR (OCME) (continued)

Qualification Requirements (continued)

OR

2. A current New York State license to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse, plus four years of experience as a Registered Nurse Practitioner.

License Requirements

1. Possession of a Motor Vehicle Driver license valid in the State of New York at the time of appointment. This license must be maintained for the duration of this employment; and
2. The licenses and registration certificate listed above under Qualification Requirements "1" or "2" must be maintained for the duration of this employment.

Lines of Promotion

None. This class of positions is classified in the Non-Competitive Class.

