



MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE
ONONDAGA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
CENTER FOR FORENSIC SCIENCES

JOANNE M. MAHONEY
County Executive

MICHELLE MIGNANO
Interim Commissioner of Health

ROBERT STOPPACHER, MD
Chief Medical Examiner

FORENSIC INVESTIGATOR



A **Forensic Investigator** position is available in the Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office in Syracuse, New York to manage added casework from additional contract counties. The office is located in the Center for Forensic Sciences, a state of the art facility that also houses the county's forensic laboratories, including DNA, criminalistics, firearms, latents and digital evidence. The office serves Onondaga and surrounding counties (pop. 985,000). The successful candidate will join five other ABMDI certified forensic investigators, 6 assistant forensic investigators, and other dedicated staff including 4 board certified forensic pathologists, a director of operations, 4 autopsy technicians, 2 morgue attendants, and other administrative personnel.

JOB DUTIES: Responsibilities include scene investigation with examination of the body at the location of death, inspection of the scene environment, photo-documentation of the scene findings, meeting with families and/or witnesses, and collecting physical evidence for possible further testing. Investigators must work collaboratively with, but independent of, law enforcement authorities, emergency medical responders, and physicians both at the scene and through ongoing investigative communications relative to identification of decedents, family contacts, obtaining medical and social history, and funeral home disposition. Information is summarized in a medicolegal death investigation report.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Current American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators certification (Registry or Board certification).

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of principles and practices of investigation to assist in the determination of the cause of death.

Good knowledge of medical nomenclature.

Good knowledge of interviewing techniques.

Working knowledge of modern forensic pathological laboratory principles and practices.

Ability to compile and organize clear, concise and accurate written and oral reports.

Ability to interview and gather data verbally.

Ability to understand and prepare written material.

Ability and physical strength to lift and move heavy bodies under difficult circumstances.

Ability to take photographs and x-rays.

Ability to meet and talk with relatives and friends of deceased persons under trying circumstances.

Ability to interact with diverse cultural and ethnic groups and express sensitivity to their cultural needs.

Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

Ability to learn laboratory procedures.

Ability to utilize computer hardware and software.

Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

Possession of a valid New York State Driver's License which must be maintained during employment.

WORKLOAD: In 2013, the Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office investigated 2,248 deaths. Of these, 1,056 fell under medical examiner jurisdiction and 392 required scene response.

SALARY & BENEFITS: Starting salary is **\$47,843**. Employment with Onondaga County includes competitive benefits such as medical, dental, vision, 12 paid holidays annually, 11 vacation days, 3 personal days, New York State retirement plan, flexible spending accounts for health and dependent care expenses and other optional benefits.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Applicants will be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation which will include a fingerprint check to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

APPLICATION may be initiated by submitting a cover letter and resume to Catherine Unger, Director of Operations at catherineunger@ongov.net. Address questions to Catherine Unger at (315)435-3163, x4032.