

# Pierce County Medical Examiner

# ASSOCIATE MEDICAL EXAMINER

**Employment Opportunity** 



# nature and scope

Pierce County, WA seeks a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy for the position of Associate Medical Examiner. The person filling this position is responsible for working with the Chief Medical Examiner and staff to plan, organize, direct and evaluate the activities of the Medical Examiner's Office. Work primarily involves forensic medical duties, including investigations to determine cause(s) of sudden, unexpected, violent, suspicious or unnatural deaths.

The office receives notifications and performs investigations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Autopsies are normally only performed Monday-Friday, excluding holidays. However, this position is expected to share call outside of regular business hours,

and to respond in the case of a high profile case, or some other situation that requires immediate response. The person in this position is expected to live in close enough proximity to be able to respond to the office within 30 minutes.

This office has a close working relationship with SightLife, an international eye bank, as well as two local organ and tissue recovery agencies. All three agencies have administrative offices in this building, and recovery technicians from all three agencies are badged to allow for access as needed. Recoveries are typically performed in this facility.

The person in this position is expected to participate in the formulation of

recovery plans on each case where family members desire to donate, so that no family is denied that opportunity.

This office has an academic relationship with the pathology department of Madigan Army Medical Center, and often provides training to other groups within Joint Base Lewis McChord and fire and police agencies within Pierce County. We also host visiting physician residents from MultiCare and the Tribal Health Authority.

This position reports to the Chief Medical Examiner. This position provides guidance to professional, investigative, technical and administrative staff in the Medical Examiner's Office.

## about the medical examiner's office



#### close knit friendly staff

The medical examiner's office has 17 full time employees providing around the clock investigations.



# community partnerships

Serves as the teaching facility for the Pathology Department of Madigan Army Medical Center.



# national accreditation

This office is fully accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners, and has been continuously accredited since 1995.



# state-of-art technology

20,000 sq ft facility with Lodox xray, PACS server, Nomad dental xray, a custom information system, with status boards throughout the building.



#### industry leader

Ground breaking, award winning partnerships with three local nonprofit donation agencies.

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# essential functions

- Participate in daily review of cases accepted by the medicolegal death investigators, including decisions about jurisdiction and type of exam
- Perform external and autopsy examinations on designated cases
- Confer with attorneys and provide accurate testimony in court as needed
- Provide technical support and training for forensic autopsy technicians and medicolegal death investigators as needed
- Serve as the director of training for pathology residents rotating from Madigan Army Medical Center
- Serve as chair of the departmental safety committee
- · Participate in disaster response planning
- Assist in evaluation of employees
- Take after-hours call as scheduled
- Meet the travel requirements



## at a glance

- With a population of 861,312, Pierce County had 6868 deaths in 2016. We received reports on 2374, and accepted jurisdiction over 1188. We performed 436 autopsy examinations, and 314 external examinations.
- Full toxicology services are provided by the Washington State Patrol Toxicology Laboratory. Toxicologists and analysts are available for consultation as needed.



- Forensic autopsy technicians provide full services, including evidence processing, photography, radiology, and evisceration. Medicolegal death investigators are the primary liaison to the public and other agencies. Investigators also provide full services, including ongoing case management and follow-up as needed. ABMDI certification is required for investigators.
- There is a full spectrum of additional laboratory services available, including special stains, chemistry, microbiology, viral cultures, and newborn genetic screening.
- Specialized consultations available, including forensic odontology, forensic anthropology, and neuropathology.
- Funding available for continuing medical education, including travel to one national meeting each year.
- The office pays for required licensing, and memberships in professional organizations.
- Occupational health services are provided by HealthWorks.

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#### compensation & benefits -

The hiring salary range for this position is **\$170,985.30 to \$230,508** depending on experience and qualifications. Benefits include a comprehensive package that includes medical, vision, dental and prescription coverage; vacation and sick leave; 12 paid holidays; life insurance; Washington State Public Employees Retirement; two Deferred Compensation Programs; a Health and Wellness Program; a variety of on-going training programs; Long-Term Disability Insurance; and commuting assistance.

#### minimum qualifications -

Certified as a forensic pathologist by the American board of pathology; or a qualified physician eligible to take the American board of pathology exam in forensic pathology within one year of being hired. A physician specializing in pathology who is appointed to the position of associate medical examiner and who is not certified as a forensic pathologist must pass the pathology exam within three years of the appointment. Licensed as a Physician and Surgeon by the State of Washington prior to start of employment.

### application process -

Persons interested in this position should submit the following information: a letter of interest specifically addressing the qualifications mentioned in this announcement, a current resume, and salary history. Apply on-line at daphne@karrasconsulting.net

If you have questions regarding this announcement, please contact Dennis Karras, (360) 867-1410. This position will remain open until filled.

Pierce County is an equal opportunity employer and is strongly committed to enhancing the diversity of its workforce. We will provide assistance in the recruitment, application and selection process to applicants with disabilities who request such assistance.

### about Pierce County, Washington

Pierce County has a population of about 861,312 and is governed by an Executive/Council form of government. The County boasts tremendous outdoor opportunities with miles of Puget Sound waterfront, Mt. Rainier National Park, 361 fresh-water lakes, alpine and cross-country skiing a short drive away, and nationally ranked year-round golf courses in the vicinity, while also offering all the urban amenities. Major industries include health care, technology, agriculture, timber products, and military installations.

Pierce County is home to the city of Tacoma, several suburban cities, small towns, and rural communities, as well as forests and farmlands. Pierce County's moderate climate combined with a contrasting geography of water and mountains encourage a wealth of year round outdoor activities such as sailing, kayaking, fishing, skiing, and hiking.



### live in Pierce County

From our world-class healthcare to our school districts and transportation, Pierce County is a great place to live. Our unique combination of urban and rural areas create the perfect place to call home.

#### Weather

Pierce County has a Mediterranean Oceanic Climate, featuring long, beautiful summers with average high temperatures in the mid 70's, and mild winters with average lows in the mid 40's. There is little snow at sea level, but if you miss it, head to Mt. Rainier where you can build a snowman in July.

#### **Transportation**

Travel by land, air and water with the Port of Tacoma, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and Pierce and Sound Transit's rail and bus system.



### play in Pierce County

From the beautiful Tacoma Waterfront to Mt. Rainier and Chambers Bay, there are many places to explore and play in Pierce County.

Pierce County is home to world famous museums like the Lemay Car Museum and the Museum of Glass. There is also a vibrant arts scene where you can experience ballets, symphonies, live comedy, musicals, concert bands, popular music and other special events.