Classification: Criminalist I - Latent Prints
Title Code: V00517
Pay Range: 20

POSITION SUMMARY:

This is an entry-level position where the employee performs technical work in the scientific analysis and development of latent prints. An employee in this position participates in a formal and on-the-job training program. Work is performed under immediate supervision.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES PERFORMED:

(Any one position may not include all of the duties listed nor do the listed examples include all tasks which may be found in positions of this class.)

Under close supervision an employee:

Regularly lifts, processes, compares, and examines latent prints from crime scenes or parties involved in criminal activity.

Searches unsolved latent prints through the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and the FBI's NGI database where applicable.

Regularly examines forensic evidence that may be bloody, soil laden, maggot infested, putrefied, rank, and/or otherwise unpleasant.

Regularly works with a variety of potentially hazardous materials (e.g., evidence contaminated with HIV, hepatitis, and/or unknown pathogens; unidentified chemicals on evidence; reagents used to develop latent prints).

Assists in examining amputated fingers or hands with the intended purpose of developing known prints for comparisons with latent prints.

Routinely testifies as an expert witness in a court of law.

Operates standard office equipment (i.e., personal computer, telephone, facsimile machine, copier, scanner, etc.).

Participates in and successfully passes practical and/or written competency exam(s) prior to assuming casework responsibilities.

Observes other criminalists conducting crime scene investigations; participates in the investigations as needed upon approval of the supervisor.

Participates in formal and on-the-job training in the scientific analysis of latent prints.

Prepares evidence and exhibits; maintains report files; issues periodic and special reports as assigned.

Learns about and participates in the proficiency testing program for the section.

Studies procedural manuals, publications, etc., within the latent print discipline.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Ability to read English effectively.

Ability to communicate in English clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.

Ability to learn and practice safety rules and procedures associated with laboratory equipment and chemicals.

Ability to learn about the preparation of evidence for presentation in court.

Ability to learn the procedures and methods used in the scientific analysis of latent prints.

Working knowledge of the MSHP AFIS system and FBI NGI software.

Ability to work with unpleasant items (i.e., amputated fingers and hands, maggot infested evidence, etc.) in the performance of job duties.

Ability to meet the requirements for membership in reputable state, national and international forensic science organizations.

Ability to perform work in accordance with prescribed procedures, makes accurate observations of test results, and prepare accurate records and reports.

Ability to gather, assemble, correlate, and analyze facts to be incorporated into a report of laboratory work and tests.

Ability to distinguish colors necessary to perform laboratory tests.

Ability to learn the accreditation compliance criteria established by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors / Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB).

Ability to learn how to use Adobe Photoshop and digital imaging software.

Ability to maintain composure while under cross-examination in regard to personal and scientific qualifications and defend findings of fact in court.

Ability to work with highly sensitive information in a confidential and professional manner.

Ability to compile and prepare information for presentation (e.g., mock trials held in the laboratory and actual court appearances).

Ability to recognize and identify minute details.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relations with others.

Ability to properly use or learn how to use laboratory equipment and chemicals.

Ability to transport tools, equipment, and evidence necessary to facilitate crime scene investigations.

Ability to perform job-related travel (e.g., appearing in court, observing crime scene investigations, and attending training meetings, seminars, etc.).

Ability to work with material that may be of a sexual nature relating to criminal activity (e.g., written material, photographs, and/or verbal language, etc.).

Ability to work hours as assigned.

Possess or ability to obtain a valid Missouri Driver license.

MINIMUM EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION REQUIRED:
(The following represents the minimum qualifications used to accept applicants, provided that equivalent substitution may be permitted in case of deficiencies in either experience or education.)

Possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. Preference will be given to applicants possessing previous latent print comparison and/or processing experience, and/or certification by the International Association for Identification in Latent Prints, and/or college science coursework. Both overall academic record and applicable job experience will be factors for consideration; however, prior job experience or certification credentials will not replace the minimum academic requirement.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Must obtain MULES certification within one year of appointment.

Must obtain AFIS certification within two years of appointment, where applicable.

Must provide a DNA sample to be used only for forensic identification as required at the time of appointment.

Must be able to pass a polygraph examination after conditional offer of employment.

FLSA STATUS: Non-Exempt

WORK SCHEDULE: An employee in this position works an eight-hour shift as directed; however, working hours are subject to change at the discretion of the commanding authority.