

Champaign County Job Description

Job Title: Forensic Pathologist

Department: Coroner

Reports To: Coroner

FLSA Status: Exempt

Employment Status: Non-Bargaining

Pay Grade: P

Prepared Date: November 2025

Summary

The Forensic Pathologist performs forensic autopsies, external examinations, and consultations to determine the cause of death in accordance with Illinois statutes, the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) standards, and Champaign County Coroner's Office policies. This position provides expert medical opinion, works collaboratively with law enforcement personnel and medical providers, and participates in courtroom testimony as needed. This is a full-time, on-site role.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Includes the following. Other duties may be assigned.

- Performs autopsies and postmortem examinations to determine cause of death.
- Collects evidence for law enforcement agencies.
- Interprets radiology, toxicology, histology, and related investigative staff.
- Reviews EMS, hospital, and law enforcement documentation.
- Provides expert testimony in court and depositions.
- Communicates professionally with families, funeral homes, agencies, and attorneys.
- Follows all OSHA, CDC, and NAME standards for safety, infection control, and evidence handling.
- Participates in continuing education and quality assurance activities.

Supervisory Responsibilities

This job does not exercise any formal supervisory or disciplinary responsibilities.

- Provides procedural oversight and guidance to the Autopsy Technician during autopsy activities.

Qualifications

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required.

Education and Experience

- Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Medical Degree (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO).
- Completion of Forensic Pathology fellowship.

Certificates, Licenses, Registrations

- Possession of a valid license to practice medicine in the State of Illinois.
 - License must be in good standing with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.
- Must be Board eligible in Anatomic Pathology.

Work Environment

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing essential functions of this job. The employee must be able to perform duties in a variety of challenging and sometimes unpleasant environments. The employee is expected to maintain professionalism and always adhere to all safety protocols.

- The noise level can range from very quiet to loud, depending on the work setting.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee could be exposed to:

- Potentially distressing or emotionally difficult scenes.
- Toxic or caustic substances.
- Bio-hazardous materials.
- Moving mechanical equipment.
- Outdoor weather conditions.

Notice

This document contains wording of a description of a general class of positions within the Champaign County salary administration program. The description contains examples of duties and responsibilities which may or may not be considered essential functions to a particular job or position with this job class. "Essential functions" are to be determined at the position of job level within each department.