

**Department of Human Resources**

Central Employee Services Division
Disability Services Section
500 4th Avenue, Room 500
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 477-3350
(206) 296-4992 FAX
www.kingcounty.gov

Employee :

Claim # :

JOB ANALYSIS

Job Title:	Forensic Medicolegal Death Investigator		
Department:	Public Health	Division:	Medical Examiner
DOT Title:	Coroner (government serv.) alternate titles: Medical Examiner	DOT #:	168.161-010
SVP:		Strength:	VH
Worksite Address:	908 Jefferson St Seattle, WA 98104	Office Contact Name/ Phone/	Jesse Chipps 206-856-6572 jesse.chipps@kingcounty.gov
Analyst:	Kyle Pletz, BA, BA, VRC, CDMS	Analysis Date:	4/14/22
Analyst:	Kyle Pletz, BA, BA, VRC, CDMS	Update:	2/24/23

On-Site Interview Representative

JOB DUTIES:

Investigating sudden, violent, unexpected and suspicious deaths that come under the jurisdiction of the King County Medical Examiner. This is the first and second level of a three-level classification series. This classification is distinguished from other classifications in that the incumbent works predominantly with field investigations and acts as a liaison between the King County Medical Examiner's office and outside agencies, families and the public with regard to death investigation.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS ACCORDING TO THE EMPLOYER:

1. Investigate and collect information relating to cause and manner of death.
1. Answer telephones to gather information to assume or decline death jurisdiction; respond to inquiries from media, investigative agencies, public, families, etc.
2. Respond via telephone or scene response to deaths where jurisdiction is assumed.
3. Investigate death scene; record scene observations, photo-document death scene and remains and interview witnesses.
4. Transport bodies, evidence and personal effects to Medical Examiners Office from death site.
5. Initiate identification process.
6. Locate and notify next of kin or legal representative.
7. Determine disposition of body, make visual examination of body if appropriate.
8. Collect, record and safeguard property and evidence; release to next of kin or appropriate investigative agency.
9. Transport and/or arrange transportation of remains in varying degrees of decomposition to the King County Medical examiner's office and process remains including weighing, fingerprinting and examining.
10. Locate and collect lab samples and record, including healthcare, police and other records.
11. Facilitate organ donation if appropriate.
12. Use computer to enter data and write report of investigation.
13. Facilitate disposition of remains, which may include burial, transit and cremation permits.
14. Conduct follow-up investigation for unresolved issues such as identification, notification and information regarding manner and cause of death.

EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS:

Ability to work in hazardous environments that may include biohazards, guns, accident scenes, traffic, and direct contact with body fluids. Ability to cope with strong, offensive odors. Ability to work with mutilated and decomposed human bodies, work in isolation, and work in a graveyard shift while staying alert. Ability to work in the dark at hazardous sites in unfamiliar settings. Ability to work with extreme emotions and unpredictable



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behavior from family or other people at death site. Ability to multitask under pressure and to communicate clearly with people in a stressful situation including family of deceased, strangers, police, coworkers, etc

Machines, Tools, Special Equipment, Personal Protective Equipment Used:

Computer, King County response vehicle, stretcher/gurney, body bag, sheet, camera, flashlight, pager, scene kit, various pieces of evidence, reference books, log books, telephone, medical records, folders, and fingerprinting kit. The employee may also use a low friction sheet of plastic called a sked to aid in the dragging of bodies.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Frequency Scale		Strength	Work Pattern	
N = Never		<input type="checkbox"/> Sedentary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full-time	
S = Seldom (1-10 %, up to 48 min)		<input type="checkbox"/> Light	<input type="checkbox"/> Part-time	
O = Occasional (11-33%, 49 min. – 2 hr 40 min)		<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal	
F = Frequent (34-66%, 2 hr 41 min – 5 hr 20 min)		<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy	8-10	Hours Per Day
C = Constant (67-100%, more than 5 hr 20 min)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very Heavy	4-5	Days Per Week
			FLSA Exempt	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Work Pattern (continued)

This is classified as a LIGHT job by the US Department of Labor, but adjusted to VERY HEAVY for this particular position.

10 hours a day, 4 days a week with 2 fifteen-minute breaks and either one 30 or 60-minute lunch per shift.

Job Demand	Frequency and Weight (lbs)					Activity Description
	N	S	O	F	C	
Lifting floor – waist						<p>Up to 10 min./time, 30 min total with 1-5 lbs. while holding a camera and taking pictures as well as picking up items at the death scene.</p> <p>Up to 10 min./time, 30 min total with 5-25 lbs. while holding an investigation kit.</p> <p>Up to 5 min./time, 5 min total with 26-75 lbs. while raising one side of a gurney with a body on it.</p> <p>Up to 5 min./time, 5 min total with 100-175 lbs. while manipulating/lifting a 200-300 lb. body on a backboard or sked. On rare occasion the body may weigh as much as 600 lbs. and additional help is required.</p>



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Job Demand	Frequency and Weight (lbs)					Activity Description
	N	S	O	F	C	
Lifting waist–shoulder		1-25 26-175				Same as floor to waist.
Lifting above shoulder		1-5 *1-75				Up to 1 min./time, 15 min total with 1-5 lbs. while holding a camera and taking pictures as well as picking up items at the death scene. *Rarely may need to manipulate a body overhead which can require lifting up to 75 lbs. for 10 sec./time, 1 min total.
Carry (Distance/Surface)		1-5 6-25* 26-75 26-175**				Up to 1 min./time, 15 min. total with 1-5 lbs. while using a camera and removing items (such as firearms) at the death scene. Up to 10 min./time, 30 min total with up to 25 lbs. while transporting an investigation kit to a death scene and removing items from the death scene. May need to carry items up to 150' continuously. *On a rare occasion the Death Investigator may need to carry their investigation kit (25 lbs.) up to 3 miles in the wilderness. **Up to 15 sec./time, 5 min. total with 26-175 lbs. while transporting a body/body parts on a backboard or sked.
Pushing/Pulling (Distance/Surface)		1-175 300' 3 mi.*				Up to 300' (5 min./time, 20 min total) with 100-175 lbs. of force for a 100-300 lb. body on a gurney or sked on all conceivable surfaces. The Death Investigator also must push and pull a body while maneuvering it from awkward positions or difficult places on to a sked or gurney. Awkward positions and difficult places of the body may include in a bathtub, car wreckage, water, woods, attic, crawl space, and every other conceivable location. Transfers bodies between gurneys. Up to 5 min./time, 5 min total with 100-175 lbs. while transporting a 200-300 lb. body on a backboard or sked. *Rarely the Death Investigator may need to pull a body out of the wilderness on a sked for distances of up to 3 miles for up to 30 min./time with a force of 100-175 lbs. **On a rare occasion the body may weigh as much as 600 lbs. and additional help is required.



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Physical Demands	Frequency					Activity Description
	N	S	O	F	C	
Sitting				X		Up to 2 hrs./time, 5.5 hrs. total while driving a county van with an automatic transmission. Performing computer and phone duties.
Standing			X			Up to 10 min./time, 2 hrs. total on all conceivable surfaces that may include carpet, linoleum, trash and debris covered floors, dirt, cement, mud, rocks, gravel and overgrown vegetation. Most commonly occurs while investigating death scenes and waiting to remove body from death scene.
Walking			X			Up to 30 min./time, 2 hrs. total on all conceivable surfaces that may include carpet, linoleum, trash and debris covered floors, dirt, cement, mud, rocks, gravel and overgrown vegetation for distances of up to 3 miles in up-to-30-min. intervals. Most commonly occurs while transporting files, removing and transporting bodies from death scenes. Death scenes can range from urban private homes and apartments to wilderness and rural areas.
Perform Work on Ladders	X					Up to 5 min./time, 30 min. total to climb a ladder to access a death site, take pictures or investigate a death site.
Climbing	X					Up to 5 min./time, 30 min. total on furniture, rugged terrain, small spaces, etc. when investigating death scenes and accessing bodies.
Climbing Stairs	X					Up to 5 min./time, while climbing 48 stairs 4x/shift to remove a body from the upstairs/downstairs of a house or from an apartment building.
Balancing		X				Up to 30 min./time, 2 hrs. total on all conceivable surfaces. May need to navigate a hoarding household, rugged terrain, slick/slippery surfaces. May need to navigate surfaces saturated with slippery bodily fluids.
Stooping / Bending	X					Up to 30 sec./time, 30 min total on multiple surfaces that may include carpet, linoleum, trash and debris covered floors, dirt, cement, mud, rocks, gravel, overgrown vegetation, etc. while looking on the ground for evidence (Such as a bullet casing) related to the death. Bends to access bodies and investigate death scenes.
Twisting at Neck	X					Up to 5 min./time, 30 min. total while performing investigations, accessing death sites (car accident, small spaces, etc.) and manipulating bodies.
Twisting at Waist	X					Up to 5 min./time, 30 min. total while performing investigations, accessing death sites (car accident, small spaces, etc.) and manipulating bodies.
Squatting / Kneeling	X					Up to 30 sec./time, 30 min total on multiple surfaces that may include carpet, linoleum, trash and debris covered floors, dirt, cement, mud, rocks, gravel, overgrown vegetation, etc. while looking on the ground for evidence (Such as a bullet casing) related to the death. Bends to access bodies and investigate death scenes.



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	N	S	O	F	C	
Crawling		X				Up to 2-3 min./time, 30 min total while navigating all conceivable surfaces that may include carpet, linoleum, trash and debris covered floors, dirt, cement, mud, rocks, gravel and overgrown vegetation, etc. Surfaces may be saturated in slippery bodily fluids. May need to inspect/access a crawl space, attic, shed, wrecked motor vehicle, small spaces, etc. Employee may also crawl while looking for evidence (such as bullet casing) or other items related to the death.
Reach waist to shoulder				X		Up to 2 hrs./time, 6 hrs. total while operating a county van, manipulating bodies, using gurneys, investigating death sites and completing computer work.
Reach above shoulder			X			Up to 5 min./time, 1 hr. total while investigating a death scene and removing items related to the death.
Reach below waist			X			Up to 10 min./time, 2 hrs. total while inspecting and investigating a death site.
Keyboarding			X			Up to 10 min./time, 2 hrs. total.
Wrist Flexion/Extension		X				Up to 5 min./time, 30 min. total while manipulating bodies and evidence at death sites. Placing bodies in to bags and adjusting straps on gurney or sked.
Handle/Grasp				X		Up to 4 hrs./time, 6 hrs. total while driving a county response vehicle, holding investigation kit, using camera, moving objects at death scene, removing objects from death scene, tightening straps on gurney or sked, and maneuvering bodies.
Forceful Grasp		X				Up to 5 min./time, 30 min total while manipulating bodies and evidence at death sites.
Fine Finger Manipulation			X			Up to 10 min./time, 2 hrs. total while entering data into a computer, typing reports, writing with a pen or pencil, and manipulating small objects at a death scene such as a bullet casing.
Hand Controls				X		Up to 2 hrs./time, 6 hrs. total while driving a county van operating scissor lift, utilizing adjustable gurney, using computer mouse, taking pictures, etc.
Foot Controls				X		Up to 2 hrs./time, 4 hrs. total while driving a county response vehicle.
Repetitive Motion			X			Body Part: Upper extremities Cycles/hr. 200+
Vibratory Tasks – High	X					
Vibratory Tasks – Low		X				Up to 5 min./time, 30 min total while rolling gurney/sliding sked across rough surfaces.
Talking				X		Up to 4 hrs./time, 10 hrs. total while communicating with co-workers, police officers, families of victims, firemen, emergency medical personnel, funeral directors, morticians, medical examiners, witnesses, or any other people that may be involved in or related to the death investigation.



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	N	S	O	F	C	
Hearing				X		Up to 4 hrs./time, 10 hrs. total while communicating with co-workers, police officers, families of victims, firemen, emergency medical personnel, funeral directors, morticians, medical examiners, witnesses, or any other people that may be involved in or related to the death investigation. Must be able to hear for potential safety hazards (gas leak, etc.).
Visual – Near Acuity				X		Up to 4 hrs./time, 10 hrs. total while investigating death scenes, reading reports, viewing computer monitor, and reading the gauges on the county van while driving.
Visual – Far Acuity				X		Up to 4 hrs./time, 10 hrs. total while investigating death scenes and driving a county van.
Visual – Depth Perception				X		Up to 4 hrs./time, 10 hrs. total while investigating death scenes and driving a county van.
Visual – Color Discrimination				X		Up to 4 hrs./time, 10 hrs. total while investigating death scenes and driving a county van. Needs to be able to distinguish colors for traffic lights and for descriptions of death scenes.
Visual – Accommodation				X		Driving. Identifying safety hazards. Works around the general public.
Visual – Field of Vision				X		Up to 4 hrs./time, 10 hrs. total while investigating death scenes and driving a county van.
Exposure to Weather			X			Up to 2 hrs./time, 6 hrs. total while investigating death scenes.
Extreme Cold			X			Walk-in cooler. Works in all weather conditions, including freezing temperatures.
Extreme Hot		X				Works in all weather conditions. Not all work locations are predictable.
Wet and / or Humidity		X				Works in all weather conditions. Not all work locations are predictable. Works around bodily fluids.
Proximity to Moving Mechanical Parts			X			Scissor lift, vehicles. Works around emergency response personnel such as police firefighters etc. Not all work locations are predictable.
Exposure to Explosives		X				Firearms, suicide devices, etc.
Atmospheric Conditions			X			Dust, fumes, gases, exhaust, strong odors, infectious diseases, etc.
Exposed Heights	X					Attics, rooftops, ladders, etc.
Exposure to Electricity	X					Accessing death scenes that can include, fires, automobile accidents, industrial accidents, etc. Not all work locations are predictable.
Exposure to Toxic / Caustic Chemicals		X				Cleaning chemicals, street drugs, etc. Not all work locations are predictable and not all exposures are known.
Exposure to Radiation	X					X-rays.



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Noise Intensity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Quiet Quiet Moderate Loud Very Loud Noise intensity greatly varies. The employee can be in a quiet office environment and can also be around loud machinery such as a large trucks, trains etc.
Other:				X		Work is performed in a variety of settings that can range from houses and apartments to urban, rural and wilderness locations. The employee may work in hazardous environments that may include biohazards, guns, accident scenes, suicide scenes, violent death scenes, infectious disease, traffic, and direct contact with body fluids. The Death Investigator is exposed to strong, offensive odors as well as mutilated and decomposed human bodies.

Analyst's Comments:

Electric Lift



Sked



Possible Employer Modifications:



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Update Comments (*if applicable*):

Note: The information for this job analysis was gathered by either on-site observation, interview and / or is representative of the labor market as indicated on page one. Additional data may have been obtained from standardized industry resources such as the DOT, GOE, COJ, OOH, WOIS and O-NET. On occasion, practicality and feasibility prevent the direct observation and/or gathering of objective, quantifiable data. For this reason, a "best estimate" may have been used.

Analyst: Kyle Pletz, VRC, CDMS

Update (*if applicable*):



Kyle Pletz, VRC, CDMS (Feb 28, 2023 11:26 PST)

Feb 28, 2023

Vocational Consultant

Date

Vocational Consultant

Date

Employer Verification: *Victoria VJ Chipp*

Employee Verification: (optional)

Jesse Chipp

Feb 28, 2023

Name

Date

Name

Date



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MEDICAL PROVIDER:

- I agree that the employee can perform the physical activities described in this job analysis and can return to work. Date employee is released to return to work if different from today's date: _____
- I agree the employee can perform the described job but only with modifications (describe in comments section). Modifications are needed on a permanent basis or temporary basis.
- The employee **temporarily** cannot perform this job based on the following physical limitations:

Anticipated release date: _____

Treatment plan: _____

- The employee is **permanently** restricted from performing the physical activities described in this job analysis based on the following physical limitations (state objective medical findings):

Comments:

Signature

Date

Print Name

- Attending Physician Consulting Physician Pain Program Physician
- IME Physician PCE Therapist OT / PT Therapist PEP Physician

KCJA Medicolegal Death Investigator 2-24-24

Final Audit Report

2023-02-28

Created:	2023-02-27
By:	Kyle Pletz, VRC, CDMS (kpletz@nim.vocmail.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAkefrqexQ0RjUiWDB1RlmzZ9NztK9tvNP

"KCJA Medicolegal Death Investigator 2-24-24" History

-  Document created by Kyle Pletz, VRC, CDMS (kpletz@nim.vocmail.com)
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-  Document emailed to Jesse Chipps (jesse.chipps@kingcounty.gov) for signature
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