

SENIOR LATENT PRINT EXAMINER

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Classification Responsibilities: A Senior Latent Print Examiner is responsible for performing complex crime scene investigations, including latent print detection and comparisons, crime scene photography, and forensic evidence collection, preservation, and evaluation that may aid in the prosecution of criminals. Incumbents confer with and assist Police Officers, attorneys, and federal authorities in the investigation and solution of crimes. A primary function of this highly technical position is to process physical evidence submitted and/or to conduct thorough investigations of crime scenes to ensure that probative evidence is collected and preserved. Chemical testing for the detection of latent prints and latent print comparison is a major responsibility of this position. In addition, this class takes inked, livescan fingerprints for criminal and non-criminal matters. Incumbents provide guidance and training for other members of the Forensic Services Section. A Senior Latent Print Examiner testifies in court concerning physical evidence, crime scene investigations, and latent print examinations. This class is responsible for performing related duties as required.

Distinguishing Features: An employee of this civilian class works in the Forensic Services Section. Incumbents in this class have progressed by criteria-based promotion through successful completion of all training required of a Latent Print Examiner, and have demonstrated proficiency in latent print comparisons and the laboratory processes to detect latent prints or meet the education and experience requirements prior to being hired by the City of Mesa Police Department. A Senior Latent Print Examiner has expertise in crime scene processing and latent print development and comparisons. All work is performed in accordance with established policies and procedures. Incumbents must obtain the applicable Arizona Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AZAFIS) Terminal Operator certifications within one year of appointment and must maintain these certifications. AZAFIS is utilized to search for suspects. The work requires exposure to dangerous and toxic chemicals. Shift, weekend, and holiday work are also required. Incumbents may be subject to emergency call out and standby duty during off-duty hours. Supervision is received from a Forensic Services Supervisor. This class is FLSA nonexempt.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience: Requires a Bachelor's Degree in a scientific, law enforcement, or related field from an accredited college or university and successful completion (passing with a grade point of 2.0 or higher) of a minimum of two college science classes. Requires a minimum of two years experience performing accurate latent print comparisons and laboratory processes to detect latent prints, successful completion of a latent print examination, and two years experience in photography. Successful completion of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Fingerprint Classification and Latent Print Fingerprint School or the equivalent is also required. Experience in image processing and certification as a Latent Print Examiner by the International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) is preferred. Must possess the level of expertise necessary to provide expert witness testimony.

Special Requirements: Because of the confidential, sensitive nature of the information handled, successful completion of a background investigation and polygraph is required. A psychological test may also be required. Must possess a valid Arizona Driver's License by hire date. Must obtain the applicable AZAFIS Terminal Operator Certifications within one year from hire date and must maintain

these certifications. Must be able to qualify to use protective respirator equipment based on passing a specialized physical examination by hire or promotion date and maintain respirator certification.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Communication: Communicates with sworn personnel, witnesses, officers of the court, the general public, management, personnel from other law enforcement agencies, professional peers in the forensic disciplines, and other City employees in order to complete identification functions and assist in the investigation and solution of crimes. Interviews victims to obtain information in order to develop composites of suspects. Instructs others in a classroom setting and on-the-job regarding identification functions. Testifies in court concerning physical evidence, crime scene investigations, and latent print comparisons. Produces written documents including fingerprint cards, court documents, performance evaluations, bid specifications, records of processing physical evidence, detailed reports, and case documentation.

Manual/Physical: Reviews the work product of others to ensure compliance with standard operating procedures, federal and state regulations, and Mesa Police Department administrative and field orders. Operates camera equipment to photograph crime scenes, victims, suspects, and evidence using black and white, color, ultraviolet, and other photography. May perform aerial photography. Maintains and cleans all photography equipment. Develops black and white negative film and makes photographic prints and enlargements. Performs chemical processes and operates laboratory equipment to process physical evidence and detect latent/trace evidence involving the use of powders and chemicals which are toxins and the alternate light source for identifying useable latent prints. Operates a personal computer in order to enter and retrieve data, prepare reports, and make fingerprint comparisons. Collects, examines, compares, and prepares charts of latent fingerprints. Makes accurate comparisons of latent prints to known print impressions. Obtains suspect prints for the purpose of fingerprint comparison and identification. Distinguishes colors for photo processing, latent print developing, blood detection, and chemical processing. Detects odors when working with chemicals or dealing with dead bodies. Inspects, monitors, and evaluates equipment, chemicals, and conditions to ensure compliance with safety standards and regulations. Prepares and updates charts and schedules, including court exhibits, in order to testify in court and make presentations. Enhances images utilizing a computer. Constructs court exhibits. Works with chemicals and uses specialized, nonroutine, protective equipment to process crime scenes and evidence that may be hazardous or contain biohazardous materials.

Operates a motor vehicle requiring a standard Arizona Driver's License to respond to crime scenes. Scrutinizes crime scenes for the collection of physical, biological, and trace evidence and coordinates technical functions which pertain to photography, latent examinations, chemical testing for latent prints, body fluids, tire/shoe impressions, and tool work identification. Digs up ground using shovels, picks, spades, and probes to recover buried bodies or evidence. Uses common hand tools to repair equipment.

Mental: Makes accurate comparisons of latent prints to known prints. Evaluates and verifies the work of other personnel. Comprehends and makes inferences from written materials regarding identification techniques including trade journals and departmental policies and procedures. Accurately applies knowledge of identification procedures and techniques when collecting and processing physical evidence. Learns and applies the principles and techniques utilized in determining the identity of deceased individuals. Learns job-related material through on-the-job training and in a classroom setting regarding latent print comparisons, and the chemical processes, safety precautions, and equipment used

in identification laboratories.

Knowledge/Skill/Abilities:

Knowledge of:

detection, collection, and packaging of evidence;
photography and darkroom processing, including black and white, color, and slide developing, black and white and color printing, and color negative enlargement and processing in varying photographic paper formats of latent/trace evidence;
classification and identification of individuals through inked fingerprints;
latent print comparison for court purposes;
chemicals, safety precautions, and equipment used in identification laboratories;
principles and techniques utilized in identifying deceased individuals;
ASCLD/LAB accreditation requirements; and
latent print detection equipment, powders, and chemicals used in the detection of latent/trace evidence.

Skill in the operation of darkroom equipment, photography equipment, evidence processing kits, fingerprint materials, and making accurate latent print comparisons.

Ability to:

assist Department personnel with crime scene investigations;
obtain and maintain applicable AZAFIS Terminal Operator Certifications;
work under highly emotional conditions which are adverse to sight, smell, and touch, especially when dealing with dead bodies and victims of violent crimes;
maintain a proficient work assignment case load; and
establish and maintain effective working relationships with associates, police personnel, other identification laboratories or law enforcement agencies, City personnel, and the general public.

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EEO-Tech

NIDA-None

RESP-Yes

PAY RANGE: 46

SH-None

CDL-None