

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

"Leading The Way For A Safer Pinellas"



LATENT PRINT EXAMINER

JOB CODE: 30087	PAY GRADE: 18	PAY RANGE: \$51,559 - \$82,495
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Under the general direction of the Biometric Records Manager, performs skilled technical work in comparison and identification of fragmentary friction skin impressions, the entry and verification of latent prints in the AFIS computer, and development of latent friction skin impressions. Incumbents may be required to locate and preserve latent impressions by the use of powders, chemicals and other development techniques following recognized rules and procedures. Work is reviewed through observation and results obtained.

A member in this job classification spends at least 65 percent of their time performing duties that involve the collection, examination, preservation, documentation, preparation or analysis of human tissues or fluids or physical evidence having potential biological, chemical or radiological hazard or contamination, or uses chemicals, processes, or materials that may have carcinogenic or health-damaging properties in the analysis of such evidence, or be the direct supervisor of one or more individuals having such responsibility, in accordance with F.S. 121.0515.

SUPERVISES OTHERS: No

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Evaluates the quality of latent prints submitted and developed to determine if they are of sufficient value for comparison;
- Analyzes diverse items submitted by various criminal justice agencies and other state agencies for the detection, preservation and identification of latent prints;
- Utilizes highly technical processes, both chemical and mechanical for detecting invisible impressions on widely varied surfaces;
- Compares fragmentary prints with known prints and makes the critical determination of whether prints are from the same individual;
- Examines deceased hands, fingers and pieces of skin for the purpose of establishing the positive identification of the deceased person;
- Prepares reports on results of examinations conducted;
- Presents expert testimony in criminal courts as to the results of latent print comparisons; qualifies each time in court as an expert witness, providing the courts with an opinion based on observable data and the incumbent's proven forensic judgment;

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- Secures the credibility of testimony under cross examination;
- Prepares court exhibits and preserves by photographic processes material potentially significant for analysis and court preparation at the direction of the courts;
- Instructs criminal justice interns in the collection and preservation of latent fingerprints, physical evidence, and in the recording of fingerprints and footprints;
- Participates in Sheriff's Office recruitment and community relations activities as directed.

This position may be considered essential and, in the event of an emergency or natural disaster, may be required to work.

This list is not intended to be all-inclusive, and you may not be responsible for every item listed. The employer reserves the right to assign additional functions and responsibilities as necessary.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with at least 12 credit hours in physical, biological, or forensic science coursework, or coursework in the science of fingerprints
- One (1) year experience as a Latent Print Examiner conducting independent casework, or four (4) years of experience as a Fingerprint Technician or related field
- Or equivalent combination of education or experience
- Additional training in latent prints will also be considered
- Latent Print Certification with the International Association for Identification (IAI) is preferred
- A written comprehensive practical skills evaluation, to include comparison and identification of latent prints to known prints will be administered
- Must possess a valid Florida driver's license

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

- Knowledge of procedures and techniques used in latent print examination and comparison;
- Ability to recognize matching and non-matching patterns and prints during manual comparison using fingerprint magnifiers and on-screen digital comparisons;
- Knowledge of courtroom procedures and legal requirements involving the use of fingerprints as evidence and as testifying as an expert witness;
- Ability to learn the intricate detail of minutiae plotting on the latent entry terminal of the AFIS computer;
- Ability to learn how to import, manage, and conduct examinations in the digital



- evidence management system (DEMS);
- Ability to lift latent prints from a variety of surfaces using a variety of professional techniques;
- Ability to concisely and accurately identify and compare prints, including old or fragmented prints;
- Ability to maintain a professional bearing and attitude at all times while on the job with supervisors, public, and peers;
- Time management skills to efficiently organize, prioritize, schedule and manage daily work activities, tasks, and special assignments;
- Independently completes work, with the member being able to successfully finish work in a timely manner;
- Ability to operate equipment and instruments utilized in meeting job requirements and operational responsibilities;
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing;
- Ability to perform all functions of the job classification without posing a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals in the workplace.

PHYSICAL ABILITIES

The physical abilities listed below are estimates of time spent during a typical work day to perform essential functions and responsibilities. Members in this position may be required to:

- Sit up to 7 hours per day
- Walk up to 1 hour per day
- Occasionally lift up to 20 lbs.
- Occasionally bend, squat, reach, kneel, or twist