

IDENTIFICATION LAB TECHNICIAN

NATURE OF WORK

This is complex technical work obtaining and examining a variety of fingerprint evidence in the operation of the Forensic Identification Unit of the Police Department. This position also maintains the DUI testing laboratories, performs maintenance, maintains records, orders supplies, and testifies in court in reference to DUI equipment maintenance. This is a civilian position.

Work involves analyzing, classifying and filing, and identifying fingerprints; processing evidence for latent prints and DNA; operating the Nebraska AFIS and Federal NGI computer systems; writing reports on latent print identifications and other forensic processes; preparing and giving expert witness testimony; and maintaining the Digital Imaging System and evidence files and records. General supervision is received from the Identification Lab Manager with work being reviewed in the form of reports, conferences, and effectiveness of services provided. Supervision is exercised over volunteer employees assigned to the Identification Unit.

EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Maintains the DUI breath alcohol testing laboratory solutions and equipment; coordinates the 40-day checks on the equipment; maintains all DUI equipment records; testifies in court related to maintenance and testing.

Maintains the Class B and Class C Permits for the Lincoln Police Departments personnel.

Obtains legible fingerprints and palm prints from both living and deceased individuals using ink, powder, or the departments LIVESCAN system.

Evaluates, classifies, and searches fingerprints according to recognized identification standards; compares fingerprints for identification of individuals; operates the Nebraska AFIS and FBI's NGI computer systems for both ten print card entry and latent print entry; performs comparisons from suspect candidate lists received from these entries.

Obtains latent fingerprints from a variety of surfaces; determines the most appropriate method to visualize and capture latent fingerprints on evidence utilizing various chemicals, powders, and photographic techniques to develop latent fingerprints.

Prepares and gives testimony as an expert witness by maintaining credentials in latent fingerprints by writing concise and detailed reports, including opinions, and creating court charts which demonstrate these opinions; keeps up to date on current OSAC federal standards relating to evidence by reviewing current literature.

Operates and maintains the DataWorks Digital Imaging System (mug shot system); orders supplies and equipment needed to maintain and upgrade the system.

Takes photographs, using various filters and lighting of latent fingerprints developed on evidence; captures still photos from video evidence.

Instructs and trains Police Officers, recruits, jail staff, and other groups as a Certified Instructor in the proper procedures, methods, and techniques used to locate and recover latent fingerprints from crime scenes and obtain legible fingerprint ten-print cards from suspects.

Participates in testing completed by Collaborative Testing Service, an independent testing laboratory, which monitors and certifies laboratories fingerprinting examinations.

Performs related work as required.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Knowledge and experience in photography, including the use of various filters and a working knowledge of digital photography software (Adobe Photoshop, etc).

Some knowledge of modern principles and practices of law enforcement.

Some knowledge of departmental rules and regulations, and Federal and State laws, with particular reference to fingerprints.

Ability to operate complex computer equipment including NCJIS, AFIS, and NGI fingerprint classification systems.

Ability to obtain and process latent fingerprints.

Ability to obtain quality finger, palm, and footprints by ink and the LIVESCAN fingerprint computer.

Ability to take photographs and operate the mug-shot computer system .

Ability to document work performed using LPD proprietary software, Microsoft Word, Excel, Photoshop, Adobe Acrobat, and Power-Point.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with law enforcement officials, co-workers and the general public.

Ability to present testimony as an expert witness in a clear and concise manner and to maintain composure in a courtroom setting.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major coursework in forensic science, criminal justice, the natural sciences, or related field with six months of experience in fingerprinting in a law enforcement agency or criminology laboratory; or any equivalent combination of training and experience that provides the desirable knowledge, abilities, and skills.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENT

Maintains credentials to be court qualified as an expert witness for DUI equipment maintenance and fingerprint testimony.

Must not have any felony convictions, nor any misdemeanor convictions involving perjury or false statements.

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