

CITY MEDICAL EXAMINER (OCME)

Duties and Responsibilities

This class of positions encompasses professional and supervisory work of various degrees of difficulty and responsibility assisting in medicolegal investigations and determinations of the causes of violent, suspicious, sudden, and unexpected deaths, and in some cases the development of policies and procedures related thereto. There are two Assignment Levels within this class of positions. All personnel perform related work. The following are typical assignments within this class of positions.

Assignment Level I

Under direction, with latitude for the exercise of independent initiative and judgment, investigates cases of sudden, unexpected, suspicious and violent deaths and manages and directs the work of Medical Investigators, Medicolegal Investigators, and other personnel.

Examples of Typical Tasks

Visits the scene of death and examines the dead body in its surroundings. Studies the circumstances of death, and makes determinations as to the necessity for an autopsy.

Orders the body to the Medical Examiner's Office for autopsy or other purposes indicated by circumstances.

Performs autopsies when indicated.

NC - X, PART II
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH -
- OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER (816)

CODE NO. 53859

CITY MEDICAL EXAMINER (OCME) (continued)

Assignment Level I (continued)

Examples of Typical Tasks (continued)

Carries out necessary histological examinations of tissues and other microscopic examinations.

Selects organs and tissues for toxicological examinations and materials for serologic examinations.

Prepares reports on the results of investigations and examinations, and promptly files the reports in the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.

Certifies the cause of sudden deaths, unexpected deaths and deaths resulting from violence; certifies such causes on the basis of the complete findings of the postmortem and related examinations.

Testifies before grand juries and in court as an official of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.

Reports the findings of deaths reported to the Office of Chief Medical Examiner to proper official agencies as required by applicable law.

Investigates applications for cremation.

Provides consultations in neuropathology or pediatric pathology for other pathologists serving in the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.

NC - X, PART II
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH -
- OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER (816)

CODE NO. 53859

CITY MEDICAL EXAMINER (OCME) (continued)

Assignment Level II

In addition to performing duties described in Assignment Level I, under administrative direction, with wide latitude for the exercise of independent initiative and judgment, performs difficult and complex assignments and investigations which include cases of suspicious death and those deaths resulting from criminal violence. Is also responsible for confidential investigations. Supervises the work of Assignment Level I City Medical Examiners.

Examples of Typical Tasks

Certifies the cause of death in such complex and sensitive cases when greater discretion, judgment and expertise are required.

Develops new policies, methods and techniques in the investigation of deaths.

Consults with law enforcement agencies, courts, and other City and governmental agencies on confidential policies and problems of mutual concern.

Provides consultations in neuropathology or pediatric pathology for other pathologists serving in the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.

Supervises the work of Assignment Level I City Medical Examiners.

CITY MEDICAL EXAMINER (OCME) (continued)

Qualification Requirements

A valid license to practice medicine in the State of New York and completion of one of the following requirements:

1. Two years of an approved residency in anatomical pathology, or three years of an approved residency in anatomical and clinical pathology, and evidence of having performed at least 75 autopsies; or
2. An accredited residency training program in neuropathology or pediatric pathology.

SPECIAL NOTE:

To be eligible for placement in Assignment Level II, candidates must either:

1. Be certified in forensic pathology by the American Board of Pathology in addition to meeting one of the following requirements:
 - a. Evidence of having performed at least 350 autopsies; or
 - b. One year of satisfactory performance at Assignment Level I.

OR

2. Be certified in neuropathology or pediatric pathology by the American Board of Pathology.

NC - X, PART II
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH -
- OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER (816)

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CITY MEDICAL EXAMINER (OCME) (continued)

Lines of Promotion

None. This class of positions is classified in the Non-Competitive Class.