



# Pierce County Medical Examiner

## ASSOCIATE MEDICAL EXAMINER

### Employment Opportunity



#### nature and scope

Pierce County, WA seeks a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy for the position of Associate Medical Examiner. The person filling this position is responsible for working with the Chief Medical Examiner and staff to plan, organize, direct and evaluate the activities of the Medical Examiner's Office. Work primarily involves forensic pathology duties, including conducting autopsies to determine the cause and manner of sudden, unexpected, violent, suspicious, or unnatural deaths.

The office receives death notifications and performs investigations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Autopsies are normally performed Monday - Friday, excluding most holidays. However, there are occasional situations that require a pathologist

to visit a death scene or perform an autopsy outside of normal business hours. This position is required to serve "on call" on a rotational basis outside regular office hours and on weekends and, when on call, must be able to report for duty to the Medical Examiner's office within 30 to 60 minutes of the call.

This office has a close working relationship with SightLife, an international eye bank, as well as two local organ and tissue recovery agencies. All three agencies have administrative offices in this building, and recovery technicians from all three agencies are badged to allow for access as needed. Recoveries are typically performed in this facility.

The person in this position is expected to participate in the formulation of recovery plans on each case where family members desire to donate, so that no family is denied that opportunity for eligible cases.

This office has an academic relationship with the pathology department of Madigan Army Medical Center, and often provides training to other groups within Joint Base Lewis McChord and fire and police agencies within Pierce County. We also host visiting physician residents from MultiCare and the Tribal Health Authority.

*This position reports to the Chief Medical Examiner.*

#### about the medical examiner's office



##### close knit friendly staff

The medical examiner's office has 23 full time employees providing around the 24/7/365.



##### community partnerships

Serves as the teaching facility for the Pathology Department of Madigan Army Medical Center.



##### national accreditation

This office is fully accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners and has been continuously accredited since 1995.



##### state-of-art technology

Lodox Xray (to be replaced by CT Scanner in 2022), a new case management system, private toxicology for pending cases, an in house transcription.



##### industry leader

Groundbreaking, award winning partnerships with three local non-profit donation agencies.

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### essential functions

- Participate in daily review of cases.
- Perform external and autopsy examinations, determines cause and manner of death, and provides appropriate documentation within designated timeframes and other professional and office accreditation standards.
- Confer with attorneys and provide accurate testimony in court.
- Provide technical support and training for forensic autopsy technicians, medicolegal death investigators and pathology residents
- Participate in office accreditation and quality assurance, performance improvement, and workflow improvement efforts
- Participate in mortality review
- Participate in the training and education of pathology residents and medical students.



### at a glance

- In 2020, Pierce County has an estimated population of 900,700 residents and registered 7925 deaths. PCME received reports on 2979 deaths, and accepted jurisdiction over 1293, resulting in 587 autopsy examinations, 273 external examinations, 407 records reviews, and 26 other exams.
- Toxicology is submitted to private lab on select cases when fast turnaround is needed (i.e. pending tox cases). Specimens are also sent to the Washington State Patrol Toxicology Laboratory. Toxicologists and analysts are available for consultation as needed.
- Forensic autopsy technicians provide full services, including evidence processing, photography, radiology, and evisceration. Medicolegal death investigators are the primary liaison to the public and other agencies. Investigators also provide full services, including ongoing case management and follow-up as needed. ABMDI certification is required for investigators.
- There is a full spectrum of additional laboratory services available, including special stains, chemistry, microbiology, viral cultures, and newborn genetic screening.
- Specialized consultations available, including forensic odontology, forensic anthropology, and neuropathology.
- Funding available for continuing medical education, including travel to one national meeting each year.
- The office pays for required licensing, and memberships in professional organizations.
- Occupational health services are provided by HealthWorks.



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### compensation & benefits

The hiring salary range for this position is \$195,939 to \$260,444 depending on experience and qualifications. Benefits include a comprehensive package that includes medical, vision, dental and prescription coverage; vacation and sick leave; 12 paid holidays; life insurance; Washington State Public Employees Retirement; two Deferred Compensation Programs; a Health and Wellness Program; a variety of on-going training programs; Long-Term Disability Insurance.

### minimum qualifications

Certified as a forensic pathologist by the American Board of Pathology; or A qualified physician eligible to take the American Board of Pathology (ABP) exam in forensic pathology within one year of appointment. A physician specializing in pathology who is appointed to the position and who is not certified as a forensic pathologist must pass the pathology exam within two years of the appointment. Licensed as a Physician and Surgeon by the State of Washington. If not currently licensed by the State of Washington, Licensure must be obtained prior to the start of employment. If ABP certification is time-limited, must participate in American Board of Pathology Continuing Certification in Forensic Pathology.

### application process

Persons interested in this position should submit the following information on the website link below: a letter of interest specifically addressing the qualifications mentioned in this announcement, and a current resume. Email Resume to: [peter.asai@piercecountywa.gov](mailto:peter.asai@piercecountywa.gov)

If you are interest you are strongly encouraged to contact Peter (Hifumi) Asai, (253) 798-8532.

Pierce County is an equal opportunity employer and is strongly committed to enhancing the diversity of its workforce. We will provide in the recruitment, application, and selection process to applicants with disabilities who request such assistance.

## about Pierce County, Washington

Pierce County is governed by an Executive/Council form of government. The County boasts tremendous outdoor opportunities with miles of Puget Sound waterfront, Mt. Rainier National Park, 361 fresh-water lakes, alpine and cross-country skiing a shortdrive away, and nationally ranked year-round golf courses in the vicinity, while also offering all the urban amenities. Major industries include health care, technology, agriculture, timber products, and military installations.

Pierce County is home to the city of Tacoma, several suburban cities, small towns, and rural communities, as well as forests and farmlands. Pierce County's moderate climate combined with a contrasting geography of water and mountains encourage a wealth of year-round outdoor activities such as sailing, kayaking, fishing, skiing, and hiking.



## live in Pierce County

From our world-class healthcare to our school districts and transportation, Pierce County is a great place to live. Our unique combination of urban and rural areas creates the perfect place to call home.

### Weather

Pierce County has a Mediterranean Oceanic Climate, featuring long, beautiful summers with average high temperatures in the mid 70's, and mild winters with average lows in the mid 40's. There is little snow at sea level, but if you miss it, head to Mt. Rainier where you can build a snowman in July.

### Transportation

Travel by land, air and water with the Port of Tacoma, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and Pierce and Sound Transit's rail and bus system.



## play in Pierce County

From the beautiful Tacoma Waterfront to Mt. Rainier and Chambers Bay, there are many places to explore and play in Pierce County.

Pierce County is home to world famous museums like the Lemay Car Museum and the Museum of Glass. There is also a vibrant arts scene where you can experience ballets, symphonies, live comedy, musicals, concert bands, popular music and other special events.