

FIREARMS EXAMINER

DEFINITION

Under direction, performs specialized work in the area of firearm and ballistic evidence testing.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO

Examines a wide variety of firearm and ballistic evidence. Examinations include firearms identification, firearms operability, bullet comparisons, casing comparisons, serial number restoration, powder patterns examinations, target to muzzle determinations, and other related firearms examinations. Interprets, analyzes and evaluates the results of examinations and prepares reports. Provides expert court testimony. Works closely with other police personnel to match weapons, shell casings and bullets to the various crimes. Performs other related functions as required.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

This is an advanced journey-level classification specializing in the examination of firearms and related evidence. An employees in this class is a court-qualified technical expert in firearm and ballistic evidence testing.

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Three years of professional experience as an independent examiner, supplemented by relevant training and/or education in this area, and possession of the desired knowledge, skills and abilities.

Special Requirement: must be court-qualified as an expert in the field of firearms and ballistic evidence testing.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of: The principles, theories, practices and established methodology associated with firearms examinations; the evidentiary value of a large variety of physical evidence; chemical methods, such as colormetric reactions of power residues, electrochemical and other wet chemistry methods; investigative procedures for collecting, preserving and packaging evidence; laws on admissibility of scientific evidence.

Ability to: Produce clear, precise and accurate analytical reports and effectively provide expert testimony in a court of law; make up and use chemical reagents; and calibrate, use and maintain various laboratory instrumentation, such as x-ray analysis, stereo comparative microscopy, electronic etching procedures, scanning electron microscopy, gas chromatography, and microscopes such as stereo comparison microscope and binocular stereo zoom microscope; provide expert testimony in a court of law.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL PERFORMERS

Successful performers possess the ability to convey highly complex and/or scientific material using language comprehensible to the average person. They are very precise and conscientious in making matches using various firearms and ballistic evidence. They work independently and with a minimal amount of supervision. They are highly analytical, detail oriented, and energetic, and are willing to work nights, weekends, and holidays. They thrive in a team environment and coordinate well with others.

Class title established per Council Resolution No. 95-075,
effective 12-1-95

Reviewed: 01/03, 09/08
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