

FINGERPRINT SPECIALIST I

NATURE AND VARIETY OF WORK

This is entry level technical work performed with the assistance of a computerized automated fingerprint identification system involving the examination and identification of latent fingerprints, palm prints and similar or related evidence pertaining to major criminal cases. An employee assigned to this class is responsible for examining, identifying and preserving latent prints in relatively uncomplicated cases and assisting higher level fingerprint specialist in more complex latent print cases. Cases are selectively assigned by the Fingerprint Specialist IV according to the degree of difficulty in order to prepare the employee for higher level work. Work is performed under close supervision and is evaluated through appraisal of its contributions to the successful resolution of major criminal cases.

Upon satisfactory completion of a probationary period, entry level incumbents may be non-competitively promoted to the II full performance level at management's discretion.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY)

Evaluates latent fingerprints received to determine if they are of value prior to entry into the Regional Automated Fingerprint Identification System (RAFIS); records information into latent log book for chain of custody.

Enters latent prints of sufficient value into the RAFIS computer system by using either the re-edit or latent console.

Evaluates latent finger and palm impressions from crime scenes with ink impressions of known criminals based on either a written request or a printout of possible suspects from the automated fingerprint system.

Testifies as an expert witness in routine police cases.

Prepares photographic enlargements of fingerprints, palm prints, etc. for chart presentation in court.

Compiles incoming chemically processed materials and records them in the latent log book, using chain of custody form.

Photographs and compares fragmentary prints lift in unstable or perishable substances,

such as dust, grease, oil, blood, wax and other materials.

Assists investigators in resolving unresolved cases by conducting extensive research of past and recent offenses with the same modus operandi for prints and performing file searches.

Maintains and files latent cases and assists in filing ten-finger fingerprint cards when purged from the manual and automated files as prescribed by the records retention schedule.

Conducts latent searches of the database of other area jurisdictions including Montgomery County, District of Columbia and Virginia.

Provides technical assistance to higher level Fingerprint Specialist positions in complex latent print uses.

Provides technical guidance to subordinate level Fingerprint Assistant positions.

May be required to use automated equipment in conjunction with assigned duties and responsibilities.

Willingly and cooperatively performs tasks and duties which may not be specifically listed in the class specification or position description, but which are within the general occupational category and responsibility level typically associated with the employee's class of work.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Considerable knowledge of the principles, practices, equipment and materials used in detecting, lifting, identifying and preserving latent prints.

Considerable knowledge of the rules of evidence and legal procedure common to court cases involving fingerprint identification.

Considerable knowledge of the Henry system of fingerprint classification and related identification systems.

Skill in accurate appraisal of evidence and physical items submitted for examination.

Ability to establish and maintain latent print and other files.

Ability to express facts and results of examination clearly, concisely, and objectively, both orally and in writing.

Ability to prepare fingerprint charts and other exhibits illustrative of identifications for court testimony and other purposes.

Ability to testify in court in an authoritative, convincing and impartial manner.

Ability to provide technical guidance to subordinate level fingerprint assistant positions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from high school or equivalent (GED), and completion of the basic fingerprint course preferably offered by the F.B.I. latent print school; plus training and experience in latent fingerprint examination or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Possession of a valid driver's license.

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