

MEDICAL EXAMINER INVESTIGATOR

GENERAL INTENT

The Medical Examiner Investigator (MEI) investigates all circumstances surrounding sudden and violent deaths as outlined in the Fatality Inquiries Act. This involves attending the scene of death to conduct a physical assessment and collect relevant information to help establish cause and manner of death. Prepares relevant documentation on the investigation for the Chief Medical Examiner. Liaises with relevant police, medical and community agencies and provides extensive communication with bereaved families relating to the autopsy and investigation results.

OR

As Special Investigator, investigates the child welfare service with respect to deaths of children in care as outlined in The Fatality Inquiries Act. Prepares comprehensive reports on the history of the child's/family's involvement with the agency, including recommendations where appropriate, and provides critical analysis as to the quality, standards of care and service provided by the agency.

COMPETENCIES

COMPLEXITY

Skills/Expertise Required

- Comprehensive knowledge of Fatality Inquiries Act, Child and Family Services Act, Vital Statistics Act, Anatomy Act, and Human Tissue Act
- Ability to evaluate analytically and to use impartial judgement
- Effective oral and written communication skills
- Effective interviewing and assessment skills
- Ability to deal professionally with police agencies, crown attorneys, doctors, hospital administrators, nurses, pathologists, medical examiners, child welfare agencies and social workers
- Ability to interpret medical findings and provide grief counselling to bereaved families
- University degree in a related discipline, such as Bachelor of Nursing and/or Social Work

Status of Work Presented to Employee

MEI receives cases of varying complexity that requires a high degree of initiative and ability to analyze and assess difficult and sensitive cases.

Guidelines

Internal policies and procedures are provided however the MEI requires considerable knowledge of related statutes and Acts.

Variety

Positions involve a combination of investigative and administrative responsibilities. They will assess and investigate the scene of death, provide direction and take custody of the body, review all relevant medical documentation, prepare comprehensive reports for the Chief Medical Examiner, assist bereaved families during periods of stress, and develop policies, standards, and procedures for the Chief Medical Examiner.

OTHER LEVEL DETERMINENTS

Independence of Action/Decision Making

MEI operates with a high degree of autonomy to the level of making decisions or assessments without consultation. Investigators have very broad powers of authority under the Fatality Inquiries Act.

Supervision Received

Receives administrative supervision from senior management.

Contacts

MEIs have regular contact with police agencies, doctors, pathologists, health care workers, funeral directors, families of the deceased, crown attorneys, social workers, medical examiners and the Chief Medical Examiner.

Consequence of Error

Incorrect assessments on cause of death and/or incorrect recommendation for an autopsy could cause distress for the bereaved family, jeopardize criminal investigations and cause embarrassment and potential liability to the Government.