CLASS TITLE: IDENTIFICATION TECHNICIAN

BASIC FUNCTION:

Under the direction of an assigned Identification Supervisor, respond to crime and accident scenes, emergency situations and other requests for assistance; perform a variety of specialized duties.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

This classification is a non-sworn position assigned to the Sheriff’s Office. An Identification Technician is expected to collect and preserve evidence used to prosecute criminals; operate photographic equipment; identify persons through fingerprints; and must be computer literate.

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

Assure protection of the crime scene and physical evidence; collect evidence and perform preliminary investigation as required.

Respond to deaths due to homicide, suicide, accidents, natural or undetermined causes; obtain, preserve and evaluate evidence; determine identify of the victim and cause of death as appropriate.

Performs photographic work involving, printing and developing. Attend autopsies to take photos and collect evidence.

Gather, preserve and analyze physical evidence.

Prepare and maintain records and logs related to daily activities as required by the Department.

Oversee the preparation of materials for presentation in court; testifies as fingerprint expert; prepares narrative reports and correspondence; operate EDP equipment for use in the filing and retention of identification data.

Determines primary and extended classifications of all types of latent prints including finger, palm and foot prints; searches and compares prints to establish possible identity; classifies prints involving the most complicated patterns, such as distorted, partial, single etc.

Operates computer terminals, including digital imaging monitors, to collect maintain and retrieve offender records from carious databases.

Prepares court exhibits and appears in court to offer expert testimony on matters relating to fingerprint identification and comparisons.

Participates in the recovery of photographs at the scene of a crime; recovery of physical evidence from crime scenes and accidents.

Makes identification of subjects based on comparison of fingerprints using a magnifying glass and/or side by side fingerprint computer screen images.

August 2005
Collects and packages evidence, to include trace and blood evidence.

Communicate with other County Personnel.

Perform related duties as assigned.

**KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:**

**KNOWLEDGE OF:**
Sheriff’s Department organization, policies and directives.
State, County and federal laws and ordinances.
Geography of the County and specific areas of assignment.
Crime scene preservation and techniques.
Oral and written communication skills.
Interpersonal skills using tact, patience and courtesy.
Health and safety regulations.
Record keeping techniques.
Current development, literature and sources of information relative to the identification function and/or crime scene investigation.
Correct English usage, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary.

**ABILITY TO:**
Present evidence and testimony in court.
Understand and work within scope of authority.
Comply with safety standards and regulations.
Maintain records and prepare reports.
Work confidentially and with discretion.
Learn to prepare and maintain clear, accurate, and concise case notes, sketches, and records.
Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with others.
Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
Train and assist less experienced co-workers.
Respond to call backs and be on-call for designated periods.
Work independently with little direction.

**EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**
Any combination equivalent to: graduation from high school and/or GED equivalency. Two (2) years of photographic experience; or two (2) years crime scene experience or two (2) years education in a related field to demonstrate the knowledge and abilities listed above.

**LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**
Valid California driver's license.

**WORKING CONDITIONS:**
Indoor and outdoor environment; subject to shift work, working evenings/variable hours, and driving a vehicle to conduct work.

August 2005
Physical abilities required include above-average physical endurance in running, climbing, and lifting as well as good balance, hearing, and seeing to drive a vehicle.

Incumbents may be exposed to gunfire, toxic chemicals, traffic hazards, communicable diseases, physical abuse from hostile or disoriented individuals, and adverse weather conditions.