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|  | **Title**: | GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST | | **Policy #** | | MO.1.01 |
| **Division:** | Pathology | | **Page:** | | Page 1 of 2 |
| **Coroner Signature:** | |  | **NAME Reference:** | | B2a,B3e,C6f,C6g,C6h, C6i,C6l,C8c,E4a,F4a, G2a,G2b,G2d,G2e, G2f,G2g,G2h,G2k | |
| **Approved/Revised Date:** | | **02-20-2024** | **IACME Reference:** | | C5p,C5q,C5r,C5s,C5t, E1a,E1b,E1d | |



**POLICY**:

All deaths reported to the Ada County Coroner’s Office (ACCO) shall be thoroughly investigated by a medicolegal death investigator and forensic pathologist in order to determine jurisdiction, and for those deaths which fall under the jurisdiction of the Ada County Coroner, to aid in the certification of the cause and manner of death.

The forensic pathologist will perform their duties appropriately, professionally, and to the best of their ability, upholding the mission of the ACCO through the provision of pathology services and expert witness testimony; meeting all required state and federal licensing standards, and remaining licensed throughout the term of their employment.

**PROCEDURE**:

1. The Forensic Pathologist shall:
   1. Be licensed by the State of Idaho upon date of hire and remain licensed for the duration of employment.
   2. Attain American Board of Pathology certification in Anatomical and Forensic Pathology within approximately two (2) years of date of hire.
   3. When applicable, perform forensic scene investigation; including directing and ensuring on scene preservation of legal, physical, and medical evidence, ensuring chain of custody is maintained.
   4. Personally examine all external aspects of the decedent before dissection.
   5. Perform postmortem examinations (full autopsy, partial autopsy, inspection), and evaluated investigative information, to determine cause and manner of death.
   6. Collect evidence, perform chemical and/or microscopic examinations of tissues and fluids, and submit samples to laboratories for examination when analysis is required.
   7. Dictate medical findings and prepare case reports on observations and interpretations.
   8. Testify in court and legal proceedings.
   9. Provide technical direction to the Forensic Division.
   10. Provide advisory and consultative services to law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney, public health professionals, and various governmental bodies.
2. The Senior Forensic Pathologist shall:
   1. Be responsible for directing, organizing, and coordinating all medical activities and procedures within the ACCO.