

FORENSIC PRINT SPECIALIST, 2200  
SENIOR FORENSIC PRINT SPECIALIST, 2201  
PRINCIPAL FORENSIC PRINT SPECIALIST, 2203

Summary of Duties : Searches for, develops and lifts latent prints at crime scenes; compares prints with other prints for identification purposes; takes impressions with plaster casts for evidence; appears in court as an expert witness in forensic print matters; or supervises and participates in the work of employees engaged in such work and does related work.

Distinguishing Features : The primary work of these classes entails obtaining and identifying single, partial or distorted fingerprints and portions of palm, toe and sole prints. This work differentiates these classes from that of the Fingerprint Classifier in that the latter works with complete sets of rolled prints. The work of a Forensic Print Specialist may be performed under trying circumstances at crime scenes, in unpleasant circumstances involving dead bodies and in hazardous locations such as on roof tops or in drug laboratories. A Forensic Print Specialist receives assignments and some technical supervision from Senior Forensic Print Specialist, however, the work is highly specialized and performance is judged by the results obtained and the quality of testimony in court.

A Senior Forensic Specialist is responsible for supervision, training and providing technical advice to a group of Forensic Print Specialists.

A Principal Forensic Print Specialist is in complete charge of the Latent Print Section and directs a multi-shift operation through subordinate Senior Forensic Print Specialists and acts as the department authority on latent print matters.

Example of Duties : Forensic Print Specialist : Conducts a complete search of the crime scene for prints, including skylights, window and other parts of buildings; locates and obtains latent prints and other physical print or impression evidence at crime scenes; inspects objects for possible latent prints; develops latent prints using powder, brushes and photographs; lifts, marks and preserves prints, including partial, single, distorted palm, toe and sole prints. Takes plaster casts of tire tracks, shoe prints and footprints; may spray crime scenes as well as objects with toxic chemicals such as ninhydrin and cyanoacrylate in order to develop latent prints. Prints dead bodies for identification purposes and may assist the Coroner examiners in the removal of fingers from dead bodies for special processing of hard to identify victims; may participate as a member of a disaster identification team, taking prints from dead bodies which may be mutilated, burned or decomposed. Prepares special photographic enlargements of latent and inked prints for court presentation and

provides expert testimony in latent print matters; lectures and instructs police personnel on lifting, preserving and the use of latent prints as evidence; maintains files and records and collects statistical data related to latent print matters.

Senior Forensic Print Specialist : In addition to performing the above work, supervises, trains and acts as a technical advisor to latent print personnel; coordinates special latent print work requests; reviews and approves positive print identifications for submission as court evidence; may direct the more complex investigations; may prepare and review statistical, administrative and investigative reports; in the absence of the Principal Forensic Print Specialist, may assume the supervision of the section; handles confidential latent print examinations involving internal investigations.

Principal Forensic Print Specialist : Plans, coordinates and directs through subordinate supervisors, the activities of the Latent Print Section; reviews questionable latent print comparisons and solves difficult forensic print problems that cannot be resolved by Senior Forensic Specialist; acts as liaison to other divisions and other law enforcement agencies on latent print matters; prepares or directs the preparation of reports and correspondence related to latent print activities; prepares budget requests, represents the department at meetings related to forensic print matters, directs research on new latent print procedures and techniques; makes recommendations to department management on proposed changes in forensic print procedures, policies and proposed legislation affecting latent print collection and its value as court evidence; develops forensic print training programs; establishes section work procedures and goals.

Qualifications :

	<u>Forensic Print Specialist</u>	<u>Senior Forensic Print Specialist</u>	<u>Principal Forensic Print Specialist</u>
<u>Knowledges</u> :			
Methods of locating, developing and preserving latent prints;	Good	Good	Good
Means of preserving evidence at crime scenes;	Good	Good	Good
Methods of taking impressions and making plaster casts of tire tracks, footprints and other physical evidence;	Good	Good	Good
<u>Knowledges (Cont.)</u> :	<u>Forensic Print Specialist</u>	<u>Senior Forensic Print Specialist</u>	<u>Principal Forensic Print Specialist</u>

Methods of identifying single partial and distorted latent prints;	Good	Good	Good
Ninhydrin, silver nitrate and other related processes;	Good	Good	Good
Latent print evidence as it relates to court testimony;	Working	Good	Good
Numerical-coded fingerprint and Henry systems of fingerprint classification and filing procedures;	General	Working	Working
Police investigative practices and procedures as they relate to latent prints;	General	Working	Working
Knowledge of the law and regulations related to equal employment opportunities and affirmative action;		Working	Working
Knowledge of memoranda of understanding as they apply to subordinate personnel;		Working	Working
Civil Service Commission Rules;		General	General

Abilities :

Prepare clear and concise reports;	X	X	X
Obtain and maintain good working relationships with other units and agencies;	X	X	X
Deal tactfully and professionally;	X	X	X
Plan, organize and supervise subordinate activities;		X	X
Prepares and conducts a comprehensive training program;		X	X

Two years of full-time paid experience in latent print work in a law enforcement agency, or three years of experience as a Fingerprint Identification Expert or in a class at that level in a law

enforcement agency is required for Forensic Print Specialist.

Two years of full-time paid experience as a Forensic Print Specialist with the Los Angeles Police Department or in a class which provide experience in obtaining latent print at crime scene and comparing single, partial and distorted prints for identification purposes is required for Senior Forensic Print Specialist. s g s

Three years of full-time paid experience as a Forensic Print Specialist with the Los Angeles Police Department or in a class which is at least at that level which provides experience in obtaining latent prints for identification purposes is required for Principal Forensic Print Specialist. t g l

License : All Classes : A valid California driver's license is required. i s

Physical Requirements : Forensic Print Specialist : Average lifting up to 15 pounds and occasionally over 25 pounds; good speaking ability and good eyesight. Most positions in this class require body agility and equilibrium involved in climbing and balancing under precarious conditions; back and leg coordination involved in stooping, kneeling, crouching and crawling to an unusual extent; arm, hand and finger dexterity with both hands, involving reaching, handling, feeling, and the ability to work at great heights. g g r n ,

Senior Forensic Print Specialist and Principal Forensic Print Specialist : Average lifting of less than 5 pounds and occasionally over 15 pounds; good speaking ability and good eyesight. t y

Persons with medical limitations may, with reasonable accommodations, be capable of performing the duties of some of the positions in these classes. Such determination must be made on an individual basis in light of the person's limitations, the requirements of the position and the appointing authority's ability to effect reasonable accommodations to the person's limitations. n , e

As provided in Civil Service Commission Rule 2.5 and Section 4.55 of the Administrative Code, this specification is descriptive, explanatory and not restrictive. It is not intended to declare what all of the duties and responsibilities of any position shall be. n s t