

San Joaquin County Employment Opportunity

Chief Medical Examiner

Health Care Services





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Chief Medical Examiner

About the position

The Chief Medical Examiner plays a vital leadership role in San Joaquin County. In conjunction with the Medical Examiner Operations Administrator, they will be guiding the Medical Examiner's Office with both expertise and compassion. Under the direction of county administration, this position oversees the office's core medical responsibilities—including autopsies, external examinations, and medical record reviews—while also shaping internal policies and protocols regarding forensic pathology to ensure the highest standards in forensic medicine.

More than just a technical expert, the Chief Medical Examiner, in collaboration with the Medical Examiner Operations Administrator, serves as a key connector—working closely with county departments, law enforcement, public health officials, and legal agencies to coordinate a unified approach to death investigations. Appointed by the Board of Supervisors and reporting to the Assistant Director of Health Care Services, this at-will leadership role holds full authority over medical decisions within the office.

To serve in this position, one must be a licensed Forensic Pathologist with the knowledge and judgment to determine causes and manners of death, interpret injuries, design autopsy procedures, and oversee evidence collection. This role also includes supervising both County staff and contract professionals, helping to foster a collaborative, high-performing team. By ensuring every investigation is conducted with integrity and accuracy, the Chief Medical Examiner upholds public trust and helps bring clarity and closure to the community during some of its most difficult moments.

The Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate is a highly skilled and experienced forensic pathologist with in-depth knowledge of statutes, regulations, and procedures governing medical examiner operations. They possess advanced expertise in forensic medicine, autopsy techniques, toxicology, ballistics, DNA analysis, and evidence interpretation. The candidate demonstrates strong analytical skills to evaluate complex investigations and determine cause and manner of death. They are effective communicators, capable of articulating findings in reports, court proceedings, and to both investigative teams and families. With a solid understanding of applicable laws and courtroom procedures, they testify with clarity, neutrality, and professionalism. The ideal candidate is also a strong leader with experience in administrative planning, staff supervision, and interagency collaboration. A commitment to maintaining public trust and high ethical standards are essential.

About the Department

Dynamic and State of the Art Environment: The Medical Examiner's Office is a dynamic workplace that requires quick thinking, adaptability, and problem-solving skills. We are currently in the final phases of construction of a brand new, standalone facility with the latest tools and equipment available, including a brand new, state-of-the-art CT scanner. This is a fantastic opportunity to join on the ground floor and assist in the development of policies and standard operation procedures for our new facility. Our state of the art facility provides unique experience to work on the cutting edge within the field.

Fulfilling Purpose: Working as the Chief Medical examiner provides a sense of purpose and fulfillment. You will be part of a team dedicated to implementing and improving the county standards regarding the all aspects of death investigation process.

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Primary Responsibilities

- Plans, organizes, directs, and leads the activities and operations of the Medical Examiner's Office to include independent, objective and timely medical, investigative, administrative and custodial functions.
- Develops and implements policies and procedures for forensic policies and procedures; obtains/maintains national accreditation
- Directs postmortem pathological examinations and medical investigations; performs examinations and review of records of all cases falling under the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner and certifies deaths.
- Interprets reports prepared by Medical Examiner staff, contracted pathologists, physicians and toxicologists.
- Serves as an expert medical witness; may testify in court and/or to the Grand Jury.
- Directs and ensures chain of custody and the preservation of physical and medical evidence are in accordance with policy, professional standards and State regulations.
- Provides advisory and consultative services to Agency staff, various governmental bodies, law enforcement agencies and to health service professionals.
- Supervises the operation of the County Morgue; assigns, directs, and reviews the work of subordinate staff; ensures effective management and leadership of the morgue facility and staff.
- Issues official statements and confers with news media concerning Medical Examiner Cases
- Informs and instructs professional and technical staff in new and improved methods in forensic pathology and medicine.

Required Qualifications

License: Possession of an unrestricted physician and surgeon license to practice medicine in the State of California issued by the Medical Board of California, at the time of appointment.

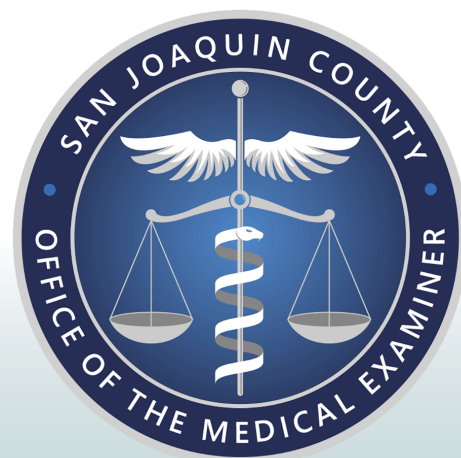
Certification: Board Certification issued by the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic Pathology or Anatomic/Clinical Pathology; AND Certification by the American Board of Pathology in Forensic Pathology.

Desirable Qualifications

Candidates invited to participate in the screening and selection process will possess a combination of licensure and experience comparable to:

License: Possession of a valid California driver's license.

Experience: Four years of experience in Forensic Pathology, two years of which include working in an administrative capacity or leadership role in a Coroner's Office or Medical Examiner's Office.



Make San Joaquin County your new home!

A land of beauty, recreation and natural riches-from the waters of the Delta to the vines of the wine, San Joaquin County has it all. San Joaquin County boasts eight cities and some of the finest opportunities in the state for boating, fishing, camping, history-gathering, or just plain fun in the sun. Each city, as well as the unincorporated county areas, offers a unique opportunity to enjoy natural California beauty and nature, or music, arts and culture. Whatever your interest, it can most likely be found in San Joaquin County.

Arts, Culture, and Recreation

The arts and culture provide a much-needed respite from everyday worries and the Haggin Museum, San Joaquin County Historical Museum, and Stockton Children's Museum are popular spots.

The Stockton Symphony, San Joaquin County Ballet, and Stockton Civic Theater provide important experiences for children and adults. The multi-cultural community offers a diversity of views and opinions in its art and culture, providing a wealth of knowledge about past and present on canvas and stage.

Over 75 languages are spoken within the region and there is richness in the blending of cultures and ways that creates an air of celebration about individual customs, foods and cultures.

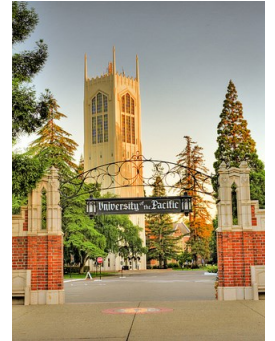
San Joaquin County government provides nine community parks for boating, camping, and picnicking, swimming and organized sports. Annual family events include the Asparagus Festival, attended by thousands of fun-seekers from the County and beyond.

Individual cities and communities provide a host of other opportunities, from Lodi Lake Park and Nature Area to the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve. The County-owned and operated Mickey Grove Park offers a zoo, rides and a historical museum to delight both children and adults. The San Joaquin Delta is one of the area's best kept secrets and offers some of the best boating in the state: more than 1,000 miles of waterways stretching from the Stockton Harbor to north of Sacramento and offering access to the San Francisco Bay.



Education

From preschool to higher education, the County has it covered with an abundant array of public or private opportunities to learn and grow. The University of the Pacific, California State University, Stanislaus-Stockton Center, Humphreys College and Law School, National University, and the San Joaquin Delta Community College offer a wide variety of choices for educational opportunities. The County's 17 school districts provide families with a wide choice for children's educational development.



Agriculture

The county is one of the most agriculturally rich regions in California. Almonds are the leading commodity with over 104,000 bearing acres. Milk, grapes, walnuts, and cherries round out the top crops, with an abundance of other produce. Grapes make up 91,000 bearing acres, much of which are wine grapes. There are over 85 wineries within the Lodi Appellation offer opportunities for tasting and special events.

Weekly farmers markets throughout the county offer a cornucopia of fresh fruit and vegetables. Fruit stands and pick-your-own produce farms dot the countryside.

Housing

Housing is plentiful in San Joaquin County and is affordable when compared to other nearby areas.

Housing ranges from new developments to historic homes. San Joaquin County is a place where families can grow, learn, and experience the nature and beauty of the California landscape while benefiting from the unique opportunities - cultural, recreational, and educational - that the area provides.

Recruitment Announcement
0825-EP5300-EX
Equal Opportunity Employer

Human Resources
44 N. San Joaquin Street
Third Floor, Suite 330
Stockton, California 95202
Phone: (209) 468-3370

SAN JOAQUIN
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Greatness grows here.

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Compensation and Benefits

Approximate Annual Base Salary:

1850

\$450,000

2025

In addition to the base salary, the County offers a comprehensive compensation package that includes:

- \$25,000 annually for Board Certification
- 2% employer contribution to the County's 457 Deferred Compensation Plan
- Vacation cash-out up to 8 days annually
- 1937 Retirement Act plan with CALPERS reciprocity
- 125 Flex Spending Benefits Plan
- 12 days of sick leave annually (unlimited accumulation)
- 15 days of vacation leave (20 days after 10 years and 23 days after 20 years)
- 14 paid holidays per year
- County paid life Insurance

Potential cashable compensation	Amount
Annual Salary	\$450,000
Board Certification Bonus	\$25,000
2% Deferred Comp	\$9,000
Vacation Cash-out (8 days)	\$13,846
Total	\$497,846

This position is exempt from the San Joaquin County Civil Service system. Appointments to exempt positions are at-will and are not governed by the Civil Service Rules.

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Recruitment Incentives*

- Reimbursement of qualifying moving expenses up to \$5,000
- Vacation accrual rate consistent with candidate's total years of public service
- Sick leave credit up to 160 hours of unreimbursed sick leave from prior employer

**Recruitment incentives may be available. Incentives must first be approved by the San Joaquin County Administrator.*

Application and Selection

If warranted by the number of candidates, applications may be reviewed by a screening panel to determine those selected to participate in a screening interview. The most qualified candidates will be invited to participate in a closed session interview with the County Board of Supervisors

Final appointment will be conditional upon passing a pre-employment drug screening test, DOJ Live Scan fingerprinting, as well as a background investigation.

A completed application package including the supplemental questionnaire must be submitted online to the Human Resources Division by the final filing date:

Final Filing Date: **September 8th, 2025**

If you are interested in this opportunity, please visit our website to submit an application and supplemental questionnaire.

www.sjgov.org

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