

## Montgomery County Coroner Internship Saule Aoki 24'

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# MONTGOMERY COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE (MCCO) INVESTIGATES DEATHS AS REQUIRED BY PA LAW

Homicide
Suicide
Accidents
Sudden Deaths
No Signing Doctor
Suspicious
Circumstances

Some of the deaths MCCO investigates

#### 2021 MCCO Data

3571 DEATHS
REPORTED

DEPUTY CORONERS DETERMINE IF
THE MCCO HAS JURISDICTION

CASES
1263
ACCEPTED

THESE CASES ARE JURISDICTION OF MCCO AND REQUIRE INVESTIGATION

1036 EXAMS

FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST DOES AN

EXAM TO DETERMINE

CAUSE/MANNER OF DEATH

396 SCENE RESPONSES

A DEPUTY CORONER TO PHOTOGRAPH
AND COLLECT EVIDENCE AT THE
SCENE OF DEATH

#### INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Assist with daily autopsies

MEASURE AND RECORD ORGAN WEIGHTS, TAKE FINGERPRINTS,
HELP EXAMS RUN SMOOTHLY. WE HAD AN AVERAGE OF 3 CASES
DAILY

• RESPOND TO DEATH SCENES

WITH DEPUTY CORONERS, ATTEND EATH SCENES AND ASSIST INVESTIGATION BY DETERMINING STATE OF DECOMPOSITION (RIGOR, LIVIDITY) AND INTERACT WITH FAMILY MEMBERS + LAW ENFORCEMENT

• ASSIST WITH BODY INTAKE/RELEASE

ATTEND EATH SCENES AND ASSIST INVESTIGATION BY

DETERMINING STATE OF DECOMPOSITION (RIGOR, LIVIDITY) AND

INTERACT WITH FAMILY MEMBERS + LAW ENFORCEMENT

• HELP WITH OFFICE MANAGEMENT

PERFORM OFFICE TASKS FOR THE COUNTY CORONER: PULL CASE
FILES TO REVIEW & SEND TO PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS, COPY AND
DELIVER TOXICOLOGY REPORTS, ASSIST WITH HISTIOLOGY SLIDES,

This is snapshot of my activities. Many tasks and experiences were unique to the day. Such is the nature of the coroner's dept.

### WHAT I LEARNED

EXPECTATIONS FOR AUTOPSY TECHS
AND HOW DUTIES ADAPT

PATHOLOGICAL SIGNS OF CAUSES OF DEATH, SUCH AS
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE (ALL TYPES), UTERINE FIBROIDS, GI BLEEDS,
SUICIDE (ALL CAUSES), DRUG OVERDOSES, TRAUMATIC ACCIDENTS AND
MORE

MONTCO, SURROUNDING AREAS AND THE UNITED STATES' SOCIETY,
CULTURE AND HISTORY THROUGH MY EXPERIENCES

NECCESARY PERSONAL AND TECHNICAL SKILLS TO
SUCCEED IN A CAREER IN FORENSICS

CONTACTS OF
PEOPLE IN FORENICS

### **Next Steps**

USE THE CONTACTS I MADE TO
FORM A SUPPORT NETWORK

GET MORE EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF FORENSICS

USE MY EXPERIENCES TO INFORM
ADVOCACY TARGETS



#### Thank You to Everyone at MCCO!