

CLASS TITLE: Firearms Identification Technician I

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision, receives, issues receipts and examines all firearm and firearms evidence that is submitted to the Crime Laboratory by the Police Department and surrounding Police departments in Cook County; and performs related duties as required.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES: Examines all firearms submitted and determines make, model, caliber and operating condition; determines the presence of powder residue, and the amount of pounds pressure on the trigger needed to fire the weapon; test-fires all weapons and makes detailed examinations of the fired bullets and cartridge cases; compares findings from tested weapons with open cases on file to determine if the submitted weapon has been previously used in any other incident; examines and classifies firearms evidence as to caliber, number of lands and grooves and direction of twist and weight; compares bullets with known standards with the use of the binocular comparison microscope and a torsion balance; examines and classifies discharged cartridge cases as to caliber and type of weapon they have been fired in.

Maintains records of data obtained by detailed examination of firearm and weapons submitted for investigation; prepares reports on evidence findings and forwards to the proper agency; attends pre-trial conferences with State and Federal attorneys; testifies in State and Federal courts as an expert witness on the findings on evidence submitted to the Firearms section; keeps abreast of current literature on ballistic techniques.

DESIRABLE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Training and Experience. At least five years of progressively responsible police experience, three years of which must have been in specialized and supervised training involving firearms and ballistics identification techniques; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

Knowledge, Abilities and Skill. Considerable knowledge of departmental rules and regulations. Considerable knowledge of firearms identification methods and techniques. Considerable knowledge of appropriate tools and equipment.

Ability to use modern laboratory techniques, especially as applied to microscopic analysis. Ability to exercise unusually good judgment in evaluating evidence and making decisions. Ability to determine admissible evidence in court.

Skill in the application of modern principles and practices utilized in firearms and ballistics identification and in the use of appropriate tools and equipment.

November, 1987