

WELFARE FRAUD INVESTIGATOR I**DEFINITION**

Under direction, conducts investigations relating to suspected fraudulent receipt of aid; obtains and presents facts and evidence to support administrative action or prosecution; negotiates for and secures repayment of funds fraudulently obtained; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Working under close supervision, Welfare Investigator I is the entry/trainee level in the Welfare Investigator series. Employees receive in-service training, and are given detailed instructions in the performance of routine duties related to welfare fraud investigations. As requisite skills and knowledge are developed, greater independence and the full scope of responsibility are exercised. Unless a position is permanently allocated to level I due to the nature of the work, employees are expected to promote to Welfare Investigator II after one year of satisfactory performance at the trainee level.

REPORTS TO

Social Services Director/Public Guardian/Public Conservator

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None

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Last Revised: 11/1995

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Duties are performed at the trainee level.

- Conducts in-house and field investigations of suspected fraudulent receipt of aid.
- Locates and interviews suspected persons, absent parents, and witnesses using a variety of surveillance and tracing methods.
- Analyzes and evaluates witnesses' testimony.
- Enters and retrieves numerical and narrative data from an automated computer system.
- Executes search warrants and make arrests.
- Examines a variety of records to secure information concerning suspected violations.
- Gathers, assembles, preserves, and reports facts, statements, or affidavits and other evidence for use in legal action.
- Assists in fraud prosecutions in accordance with specific instructions and clearly defined guidelines.
- Makes arrangements for the repayment of funds fraudulently obtained and follows-up to enforce actions for collection of such funds.
- Reads and interprets computer printouts and information on computer screens.
- Prepares correspondence and reports.
- Interprets and explains the provisions of laws, rules or regulations related to the purpose of the investigation.
- May act in a liaison capacity between the social services department and the District Attorney's office and County Counsel's office.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for extended periods; frequently stand and walk; normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is performed in an office; occasionally works outside; continuous contact with staff and the public.

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DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Interviewing techniques.
- Report writing and record keeping.
- Computer terminology and computer keyboard arrangement.
- Criminal investigation techniques and procedures.
- Appropriate methods of surveillance, skip tracing methods, and other sources of information used in locating persons or obtaining facts.
- Principles of identification, arrest procedures, search warrant acquisition and execution, preservation, and presentation of evidence.

Ability to:

- Communicate information, both orally and in writing, in a manner that is understandable to others.
- Interview, analyze, and evaluate the statements of witnesses or suspected violators.
- Learn, interpret, and apply provisions of the welfare laws, search and seizure laws, and the legal rights of citizens.
- Navigate through screens to retrieve information in an automated computer system.
- Write clear and accurate correspondence and reports.
- Perform basic arithmetical calculations.
- Deal effectively with citizens and public officials under conditions requiring tact and good judgment.
- Gather and document information and evidence by observation, record examination, and interview.
- Negotiate for, and secure payment of, funds fraudulently obtained or funds for support of recipients of aid.
- Coordinate and communicate job activities and investigations with staff responsible for other functions within the Department.

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Training and Experience:

Qualifications needed for this position:

Two (2) years of full-time experience as an Eligibility Worker II;

OR

Two (2) years of full-time experience interviewing and independently determining eligibility for public or private social services, medical services, or related programs;

OR

One (1) year of full-time experience in investigative work which included locating, observing, and interviewing suspected persons and witnesses, writing detailed reports of case findings, and preparing and presenting evidence; **AND** successful completion of six (6) semester units of college level course work in criminal investigation techniques and legal aspects of evidence.

Note: Applicant who is close to completing this education requirement may be admitted to the exam process, but must meet these requirements at time of appointment.

Substitution: An additional six months of investigative experience beyond the one year required above; which included interviewing people, writing detailed case reports, and preparing or presenting evidence or information in court, may substitute for the required education.

Welfare Investigators have Peace Officer status and must meet the following requirements under Government Code Sections 1029, 1030, 1031: No felony convictions; citizen of the United States; 21 years of age; high school graduate or GED equivalence; be fingerprinted to permit search for criminal records; be of good moral character as determined by a background investigation; be free of any condition which might adversely affect exercise of Peace Officer powers.

Successful completion of a Specialized Investigative Basic Course (SIBC) approved by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training within twelve months of appointment to the class OR possession of a valid basic peace officer certificate as awarded by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training OR successful completion of the regular basic peace officer course as awarded by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training within three years prior to appointment.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Must possess a valid driver's license at time of application and a valid California Driver's License by the time of appointment. The valid California License must be maintained throughout employment. Exception to this requirement may be considered on a case by case basis.

All County of Plumas employees are designated Disaster Service Workers through state law (California Government Code Section 3100-3109). Employment with Plumas County requires the affirmation of a loyalty oath to this effect. Employees are required to complete all Disaster Service Work related training as assigned, and to return to work as ordered in the event of an emergency.