

Applied Chemistry on Forensic Pathology Science

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INTRODUCTION

Forensic chemistry is that the application of chemistry and its subfield, forensic toxicology, during a legal setting. A forensic chemist can assist within the identification of unknown materials found at a criminal offense scene. Specialists during this field have a good array of methods and instruments to assist identify unknown substances. These include high-performance liquid chromatography, gas chromatography-mass spectrometry, atomic absorption spectroscopy, Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, and thin layer chromatography. The range of various methods is vital thanks to the destructive nature of some instruments and therefore the number of possible unknown substances which will be found at a scene. Forensic chemists prefer using nondestructive methods first, to preserve evidence and to work out which destructive methods will produce the simplest results.

Along with other forensic specialists, forensic chemists commonly testify in court as expert witnesses regarding their findings. Forensic chemists follow a group of standards that are proposed by various agencies and governing bodies, including the scientific working party on the Analysis of Seized Drugs. Additionally to the quality operating procedures proposed by the group, specific agencies have their own standards regarding the standard assurance and internal control of their results and their instruments. To make sure the accuracy of what they're reporting, forensic chemists routinely check and verify that their instruments are working correctly and are still ready to detect and measure various quantities of various substances.

Forensic chemists' analysis can provide leads for investigators, and that they can confirm or refute their suspicions. The identification of the varied substances found at the scene can tell investigators what to seem for during their search. During fire

investigations, forensic chemists can determine if an accelerant like gasoline or kerosene was used; if so, this means that the hearth was intentionally set.

Modern forensic chemists believe numerous instruments to spot unknown materials found at a criminal offense scene. The 20th century saw much advancement in technology that allowed chemists to detect smaller amounts of fabric more accurately. the primary major advancement during this century came during the 1930s with the invention of a spectrometer that would measure the signal produced with infrared (IR) light. Early IR spectrometers used a monochromatic and will only measure light absorption during a very narrow wavelength band.

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