

## **What is a Forensic Scientist?**

Forensic science is a broad term used to describe people, who, quite often, work alongside the law to find, identify and analyze any sort of evidence from an investigation. The work they perform is very vital because their expert opinions could be the determining factor in convictions of criminal proceedings. This field of science is devoted to resolving legal issues by applying standards that include a vast range of specialties, all of which are categorized into different fields within forensics.

Although the field of forensics is broad in respect to the many kinds of careers it offers, the one thing that all specialties have in common is the fact that their work is somewhat related to science and the law. They work in a variety of places including police departments, prosecutor's offices, government agencies, hospitals, insurance companies, private law firms, and some are even self-employed private contractors. Often, they specialize in areas such as DNA analysis or toxicology, performing tests on collected evidence like glass, hair, tissue or bodily fluids to determine its importance in the investigation. In turn, their findings could be formally documented explaining the scientific principles or techniques used and how it relates to the investigation to help investigators. If needed, they could also give expert witness opinions in criminal proceedings. Their work is frequently crucial in either convicting criminals or proving their innocence.