

**UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM  
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

**DEPUTY COURT CLERK MAGISTRATE II**

**CLASS CODE: 99-11-12**

**POSITION PURPOSE**

Provides expertise in circuit court procedures through team leadership or supervision of assigned judicial and non-judicial personnel by providing initial training to newly hired employees and training on changes and updates to all assigned employees; monitoring and reviewing employees' work; interpreting laws and procedures as situations occur; and answering questions based on facts and acquired knowledge and experience to ensure work moves through the unit according to established guidelines and timelines; assumes more complex and non-routine projects or functions associated with circuit court procedures; performs magistrate duties as assigned; and acts on behalf of the court clerk in his or her absence.

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURE**

This position is distinguished by proficiency in court functions and established operations and conveying accumulated knowledge and experience to assigned staff through training, work assignment, and work review to ensure efficient and effective progression of work.

**MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Note: The duties listed are typical examples of work performed by positions in this job classification. Not all duties are included, nor is the list exclusive.

1. Supervises deputy court clerks and support staff to assist with the work of the unit.
  - a. Assists with selection of new employees.
  - b. Trains newly hired employees and provides ongoing training for assigned staff.
  - c. Assigns work among staff.
  - d. Monitors work for compliance with established procedures, and provides information and work direction to staff when needed.
  - e. Prepares for and conducts performance evaluations.
2. Maintains case files for criminal, civil, traffic, and other cases from initial to final disposition in accordance with established procedures and designated timelines.
  - a. Ensures documents are completed and signed and that fees are appropriate for case types; and prepares receipts for money received.
  - b. Ensures papers are file-stamped, include case numbers, and are in proper order; personal information is included in files; confidential information is in files but kept separate; and attorneys are added/updated.
  - c. Enters personal data, document lists, and court dates into computer system.
  - d. Enters court cases on main calendar and on Judges' calendars in Outlook.
  - e. Updates files with dispositions, adds referees if needed, and copies files for them.
  - f. Makes and sends copies of orders and judgments to applicable agencies.
  - g. Prepares and sends forms for final records, decrees, and judgments to Unified Judicial

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System (UJS) central office.

3. Assists in maintaining court calendars by scheduling hearings according to procedures.
  - a. Talks with attorneys and pro se individuals to obtain information about their hearings, e.g., type of hearing, urgency, amount of time needed, etc.
  - b. Schedules hearings based on information collected; and makes sure participants are notified and times work for all.
  - c. Adjusts schedules in special circumstances, and notifies participants when schedules change.
  - d. Advises pro se individuals of hearing dates and times, and about procedures they must follow.
  - e. Sets up DDN hearings.
  - f. Makes sure appropriate papers have been filed with the clerk's office and necessary documentation has been sent to Judges.
  - g. Ensures files are ready for court, e.g., all papers are in the computer files and in correct order.
  
4. Provides customer service in many different ways to many different people by providing information about the court's protocols and procedures to make sure they receive correct information.
  - a. Helps people with pro se forms without giving legal advice or telling them what to write.
  - b. Enters tickets into computer systems.
  - c. Assists people who come to the office to pay fines, costs, or restitution which may involve double-checking files, calling attorneys, or checking Judges' notes to verify information.
  - d. Schedules payment plans; receives and writes receipts for money; verifies amounts are correct and applies them to right accounts; compiles reports; makes daily deposits; and informs customers of amounts still owed to the court.
  - e. Talks with customers, asks them questions, tries to determine what they need and how they can be helped; or if they may need to go to a different office.
  - f. Searches and retrieves case files and makes copies of them for people and agencies.
  - g. Processes search requests, provides results, charges for services, and assists other search centers.
  - h. Determines whether customers qualify and have provided needed information, and prepares work permits.
  - i. Determines whether defendants qualify, and have completed paper work, for court-appointed counsel; appoints and notifies counsel; and notifies defendants.
  - j. Answers telephones and assists customers with questions or refers them elsewhere if appropriate.
  
5. Provides assistance in court rooms by maintaining case files and minutes of proceedings; handling in-court exhibits; empanelling juries; recording proceedings; being responsible for sound and video equipment; and providing court interpretive services when needed to facilitate processes of the court.
  - a. Ensures an adequate number of potential jurors are available.
  - b. Makes sure court rooms are ready, neat, and clean.
  - c. Prepares court dockets, including any changes, and notifies attorneys; and posts final dockets on court room doors; unless other signage is available; i.e. scrolling screens, etc.
  - d. Retrieves case files for court, making sure all documents filed are accounted for in files;

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- and assists Judges with files and documents needed during court.
- e. Enters Judges' orders into computers, e.g., pleas, fees, fines, costs, restitution, restitution victims' names and addresses, loss of drivers' licenses, conditions, warrants, next court dates, etc.
  - f. Checks availability of court rooms and times and provides next court dates.
  - g. File-stamps and docket any new documents presented during court.
  - h. Prepares formal documents for Judges' signatures.
  - i. Collects files, documents, exhibits, and everything else pertinent to transport from court rooms to clerks' offices.
6. Performs clerk magistrate duties as assigned to assist the circuit court in disposing of civil actions and to provide direct court contact for average citizens.
- a. Solemnizes marriages and administers oaths.
  - b. Issues summonses and warrants.
  - c. Appoints counsel.
  - d. Conducts preliminary hearings, fixes bonds, or takes personal recognizance of persons charged with certain offenses.
  - e. Accepts defaults for petty offenses, tries contested cases involving certain petty offenses.
  - f. Takes pleas of guilty, not guilty, or nolo contendere for any criminal offense or for violation of any ordinance, bylaw, or other police regulation of a political subdivision in accordance with applicable statutes.
7. Performs other work as assigned.

### **SUPERVISORY FUNCTIONS**

Supervises judicial and non-judicial personnel; assigns and monitors work to assigned staff; assumes responsibility for atypical and complex projects; and prioritizes self-assigned work.

### **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS REQUIRE**

Operating office machines such as computers, telephones, copiers, etc.; lifting and moving files; in-state travel; handling and storing exhibits properly; and attendance in accordance with rules and policies. Incumbents are required to work effectively with coworkers and the public, maintain confidentiality, manage stress, meet deadlines, recognize and resolve problems, and understand and communicate (verbally and in writing) procedures and practices.

### **PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES**

Challenged to consistently implement UJS protocols and procedures to accomplish assigned tasks. This is challenging because of the diversity of work that is done through clerks of court offices, the knowledge of multiple processes that is required, the variety of people and organizations with whom incumbents interact routinely, the importance of assisting with courtroom procedures, and the duty to provide acceptable customer service that speaks well of UJS.

Problems encountered include prioritizing work of others, providing assistance to people unfamiliar with court procedures without giving legal advice, allocating adequate time for hearings, disgruntled customers and being able to calm them in order to assist with what they

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need, file information that is not up to date and requires knowing where to research to get answers, interruptions, and keeping up with computer input during the fast pace of court.

### **DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY**

Decisions include the order of work to be assigned to subordinates; applicable procedures and fees for magistrate duties; correct case types for papers filed and correct order of papers in file; setting bond and conditions; advising defendants of their rights; advising pro se individuals of procedures they must follow; maintaining financial accounts and payment plans for fines, costs, restitution, etc.; assigning court dates and times for hearings; and whether someone qualifies for court-appointed counsel.

Decisions referred include requests for legal advice; issues that arise that are not addressed in the clerks' manual; schedules for longer trials (to court reporters); and pretrial conferences to set discovery, deadlines, and trial dates.

### **CONTACT WITH OTHERS and PURPOSE**

Daily contact with attorneys, court services, sheriffs' offices, State's Attorneys' offices, Department of Social Services, Judges, Driver's Licensing, etc., to share information on cases; and with the general public to provide information and answer questions about court processes, and to process civil actions; routine contact with State's Attorneys' offices, attorneys and staff, court services officers, sheriffs' officers, pro se individuals, and state agencies to schedule hearings and court dates that work for everyone involved.

### **WORKING CONDITIONS**

The incumbent works in a typical office and/or court environment; transports case files and pertinent materials to and from court, which may involve travel; and deals with people who are distraught, angry, and want assistance.

### **COMPETENCIES/QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT**

#### **Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

Knowledge of:

- court processes and organization;
- South Dakota Codified Laws;
- Supreme Court rules of procedure and local circuit policies;
- clerk magistrate responsibilities and processes;
- legal terminology;
- general office and bookkeeping practices;
- processes and practices of human resources management.

Skill in:

- time management;
- organization;
- customer service.

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Ability to:

- supervise;
- communicate effectively both verbally and in writing;
- listen and understand;
- work independently;
- use computers and related software systems proficiently;
- multi-task and adapt quickly to change;
- prioritize work activities to ensure most important items are done first.

### **Education:**

Graduation from high school or possession of a GED certificate.

### **Experience:**

Two (2) years of applicable experience; supervisory experience preferred but not required; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.