

North Carolina State Crime Laboratory

Forensic Update



Volume 4, No. 1

June 12, 2020

Dear Criminal Justice Stakeholders,

I hope this update finds you all doing well during these uncertain times. The laboratory has remained open during the pandemic. We are available for evidence submission and our scientists have continued to analyze evidence. As always, we are here to provide you the best service possible. If you have a case that needs to be expedited, please continue to submit those via FA web to receive the fastest response. This article discusses updates recently made to the Laboratory Policies and Procedures and information regarding outsourcing evidence for DNA testing. Additionally, you will see a list below of the current services that the laboratory offers.

As always, if you have questions, please reach out to us.

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Services Provided by the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory

1. Digital Evidence – Computer Forensics, Mobile Device Examination, Security Bypass, Vehicle Forensics, Audio, Video
2. DNA Database – Analysis and upload of convicted offender and arrestee samples to CODIS
3. Drug Chemistry – Drug Identification
4. Firearms – Firearm Function Test, Firearm to Ammunition Comparison, Ammunition Comparison, Caliber Determination, IBIS/NIBIN entry, Serial Number Restoration
5. Forensic Biology – Body Fluid Identification (Blood and Semen), Familial Searching, Kinship Analysis, DNA, YSTR, CODIS entry
6. Latent Evidence – Fingerprint (Latent) Comparison, SAFIS entry, Impression (Tire Tracks, Footwear) Comparison, SICAR entry (Footwear Database identification of shoe prints recovered from crime scenes and the management of shoeprint evidence)
7. Toxicology – Blood Alcohol, Blood Drug, Urine Drug
8. Trace Evidence – Fiber, Fire Debris, Glass, GSR, Hair, Light Bulb/Filament, Paint, Physical Match, Tape, PDQ (Paint Data Query: Automotive Paint Database used to identify the subject vehicle's manufacturer, make, model, and year)

Outsourcing Evidence for DNA Testing

If your agency would like to outsource the testing of evidence from your cases to a private laboratory, the State Crime Laboratory (SCL) fully supports you. We want to assist you so that the results of any DNA testing will be eligible for entry into the CODIS database. There are policies that the SCL must follow in accepting DNA data from outside laboratories for CODIS entry. If you are currently using a vendor for DNA testing or plan to use one, please contact the Forensic Biology section of the SCL at 919-582-8860. This information applies to outsourcing cases other than previously untested sexual assault kits. If you have questions concerning the outsourcing of sexual assault kits collected prior to January 2018, please contact SAK@ncdoj.gov.

Updates to Laboratory Policies and Procedures

Changes were incorporated into the quality documents on May 1, 2020, to consolidate Laboratory quality requirements into a single location. Most requirements are now located in the supporting procedures instead of in the Quality Manual.

As a reminder, the Laboratory's procedures are available on our website at <https://ncdoj.gov/crime-lab/iso-procedures/>. Access to the procedures requires the user to create a free Microsoft account. Once access has been granted, the user will be able to view all Laboratory procedures (current and archived), accreditation reports, QAS audit reports, and reports to the General Assembly on Laboratory operations.

If at any time you have any questions about our procedures or any other general questions about the laboratory, you can use the *Contact the Crime Lab* form located at <https://ncdoj.gov/crime-lab/contact-the-crime-lab/>. For specific case-related questions, please contact the analyst of record.