

### Range of Conclusions for Friction Ridge Examinations

**Identification** - A determination by a forensic scientist that there are sufficient features in agreement to conclude that two areas of friction ridge impressions originated from the same source. An identification is reached when the friction ridge impressions have corresponding ridge detail and the forensic scientist would not expect to see the same arrangement of details repeated in an impression that came from a different source.

*Interpretation:* It is the opinion of the examiner that the latent impression was made by the same source (person) as the known impression.

**Exclusion** - A determination by a forensic scientist that there is sufficient data and disagreement present within a friction ridge impression to conclude that it was not made by the same source as a set of known exemplars.

*Interpretation:* It is the opinion of the examiner that the latent impression was not made by the same source (person) as the known impression.

**Inconclusive** – A determination by a forensic scientist that an identification or exclusion cannot be determined based upon a lack of sufficient data/detail present within a set of known exemplars.

*Interpretation:* The known impressions were not good enough quality to come to a definitive conclusion.



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