

	<p align="center"><i>Latent Procedure</i></p> <p>Pitt County Sheriff's Office Forensics Services Unit <i>Issued by Technical Leader</i></p>	<p>Effective Date: 2020/01/15</p>	<p>Ver: 5</p>
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Technical Procedure for Ensuring Quality Control

1.0 Purpose - This procedure outlines measures to ensure the quality of work conducted in the latent evidence discipline.

2.0 Scope - This procedure applies to all casework performed within the latent evidence section.

3.0 Definitions – N/A

4.0 Equipment, Materials and Reagents – N/A

5.0 Procedure

5.1 Laboratory Control Samples (Positive Controls/Test Prints)

5.1.1 Reagent test prints, also called control samples or positive and negative controls, shall be performed on all prepared and/or purchased processing chemicals prior to use on test items. The results shall be noted in the case notes. Case test prints are positive control and shall be prepared on a substrate similar to the actual item of evidence and shall be tested and verified along with the evidence. The results of the test print shall be recorded in the master case file. A positive result is defined as the presence of friction ridge detail within the test print.

5.2 Independent Analysis/Review of Data

5.2.1 All analysis performed within the Latent Evidence discipline shall be independent with conclusions based on scientifically sound premises. The Laboratory recognizes the following concepts:

- No two (2) individuals have been found to have the same fingerprint.
- The fingerprint does not change naturally from before birth until after death, barring scars or mutilation.
- Identification is effected when there is a sufficient amount of observational data present in both the known and questioned impressions without any unexplained differences.
- There is no scientific requirement of a minimum number of identifying characteristics in order to effect a positive identification.

5.3 Tolerance Limits for Matches

5.3.1 All friction ridge identifications and exclusions shall be verified by another qualified latent impression examiner. Both examiners shall agree on the interpretation of the data to be reported. Conflicts shall be decided as provided in the procedure for Reviewing Laboratory Reports.

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5.4 Infrequently Used Procedures

- 5.4.1** Procedures that are not routinely used shall be used by the analyst on a non-test item with clear and appropriate results obtained prior to use by the analyst on test items. The testing shall be noted on the Friction Ridge lab processing notes sheet. The test shall be conducted referencing the Procedure and with the "Case Prints" approach listed in 5.1.1 Laboratory Control Samples of this document.

5.5 Standards and Controls – N/A

5.6 Calibration – N/A

5.7 Sampling – N/A

5.8 Calculations – N/A

5.9 Uncertainty of Measurement – N/A

6.0 Limitations - N/A

7.0 Safety - N/A

8.0 References – N/A

9.0 Records – N/A

10.0 Attachments –N/A



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REVISION HISTORY

CURRENT VERSION	EFFECTIVE DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
1	2016/07/01	Original Version
2	2018/04/01	Modify test print text, change revieison history table, issue date to effective date, rev# to Ver#
3	2018/10/25	5.2.1 remove reference to number of characteristics.
4	2019/03/22	5.1.1 Removed requirement to record control test on Reagent Log
5	2020/01/15	Add 5.4.1 infrequent use language for procedures prior to using on test items.

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