



Wallie Howard, Jr.
Center for Forensic Sciences
Forensic Laboratories

Information for Submitting Agencies

- The Forensic Laboratories will accept evidence submitted by prosecutors, law enforcement agencies or the Medical Examiner’s Office.
- The laboratory **does not** provide analysis for private citizens or for civil litigations.
- Evidence can be submitted at the CFS Evidence Intake window between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.
- Analysis can be requested by checking the appropriate areas on the Evidence Submission Form available at the Evidence Intake Receiving Area of the CFS.
- The Forensic Laboratories are responsible for determining the appropriate test methods utilized for analysis.
- The Forensic Laboratories reserve the right to approve deviations regarding the test methods utilized when appropriate and to subcontract for analysis when necessary.
- Please contact the laboratories at (315) 435-3800 for additional information.

Methods Used for Examination

Below is a list of general methodology, per section, utilized in the examination of forensic evidence:

Biology/DNA	Chemical and microscopic analysis for body fluids including blood, semen, saliva, urine and feces. Nuclear DNA testing using Short Tandem Repeat analysis and capillary electrophoresis. Entry and search into CODIS (Combined DNA Index System)
Chemistry – Controlled Substances	Chemical, macroscopic and microscopic examination for suspected marijuana. Chemical and instrumental analysis (gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) or infrared spectrophotometry) for suspected drugs and controlled substances. Macroscopic and instrumental analysis (GC/MS) for controlled pharmaceuticals. Macroscopic analysis for non-controlled pharmaceuticals. Headspace GC/MS analysis for ethylene glycol and volatiles.
Chemistry – Fire Debris	Passive adsorption extraction/elution and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry analysis for ignitable liquid residues. Gas chromatography/mass spectrometry analysis for ignitable liquids.
Digital Evidence	Digital analysis of computer media for the presence or absence of probative evidence. Submission of suspected child pornography images to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).

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Firearms	Operability testing on firearms and ammunition. Serial number restoration using chemical and magnetic methods. Microscopic comparison of evidence (submitted) ammunition components and test-fired ammunition. Entry and search into NIBIN/IBIS (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network / Integrated Ballistic Identification System).
Latent Prints	Chemical, physical and electronic processing techniques for the detection of friction ridge (i.e. latent prints) and footwear impressions. Comparison of friction ridge impressions to known friction ridge recordings for the purposes of identification. Comparison of questioned footwear impressions to known footwear for the purpose of identifying the source of the questioned impressions. Entry and search of fingerprints in SAFIS (Statewide Automated Fingerprint Identification System), including the forwarding of these for search of the FBI IAFIS (Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System).
Questioned Documents	Microscopic and visual comparison of known and questioned handwriting for the purpose of identifying or eliminating a person(s). Microscopic examination, Electrostatic Detection Apparatus (ESDA) and Video Spectral Comparator (VSC) instrumentation utilized in the examination of documents for alterations, indentations, ink differentiation and obliterations.
Forensic Toxicology	Body fluid and tissue samples may be screened for drugs utilizing enzyme immunoassay, microcolor techniques and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS). Substances detected during the screening process are confirmed and quantitated using a combination of one or more of the following: UV/Vis, gas chromatography, GC/MS and high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). Blood ethanol levels are determined by headspace gas chromatography.
Trace Evidence	Physical match comparisons and vehicle lamp examination accomplished utilizing morphological examination. Hair identification and comparison accomplished using morphological and microscopic analyses. Fiber and cordage identification and comparison is accomplished using morphological, microscopic, optical, chemical and instrumental techniques. Glass identification and comparison is accomplished using morphological, microscopic, optical and instrumental techniques.

The Forensic Laboratories maintain information on-site regarding the exact test methods used in examination. This information is available to our submitting agencies and customers upon request. Contact the Director of Laboratories or Quality Assurance Manager at 435-3800.

The Forensic Laboratories strive to provide the highest quality forensic testing to our customers in a timely and objective manner. The Forensic Laboratories' management welcomes positive feedback as well as suggestions for improvement regarding laboratory services. Please use the [Laboratory Services Feedback Form](#), available as an attachment on the Laboratories' website, or contact the Director of Laboratories at 435-3800 to provide feedback to the laboratory.

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