



## Latent Print Submission Guidelines

### General Submission Guidelines

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation Forensic Services (CBIFS) recognizes that each case is distinctive. Our submission guidelines will address typical situations encountered by your agency but cannot speak to all of the unique circumstances that are often exclusive to a particular case. With this understanding, the CBIFS provides the following information to assist you in the submission of your evidence.

### Evidence NOT Suitable for Analysis

Certain cases and types of evidence are not conducive to latent print analysis and will not produce effective results. The following describes those cases or types of evidence that most frequently will not be analyzed for latent prints:

- Items of evidence seized from the suspect, to include weapons and undercover narcotics purchases will not routinely be analyzed for the presence of the suspect's fingerprints.
- Items not associated with a crime, such as found property.
- Due to the limited ability to obtain useable latent prints, cartridge cases (discharged cartridges) of .22 calibers short, long, or long rifles and .25 caliber automatics will not be analyzed.
- Due to an inability to add value to the investigative process, cases in which confirmatory video or photographic evidence of a suspect in possession of an item of evidence are not processed.

### AFIS/IAFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System/Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System)

In 1986, the first AFIS systems were created to develop databases of known fingerprints to aide in the searching of a large number of known prints utilizing mathematical algorithms. These databases consist of local and state regions that contain all known prints of individuals within that region. These individuals include anyone fingerprinted upon arrest or fingerprinted for an application process. In 1999, the FBI created the first version of IAFIS. IAFIS is a database that consists of the known prints from all 50 states. All developed latent fingerprints with enough quality and quantity of detail can be entered and searched through the Colorado AFIS system and/or the FBI IAFIS system.

### Reference Standards

Reference standards/elimination prints are "known prints" taken from a specific individual, typically the victim or suspect.

- Submission of evidence for latent print examination or entry into the AFIS/IAFIS should be accompanied by the submission of elimination prints of the victim(s) and/or other individuals who may have had legitimate access to the crime scene. If a suspect is known, please provide known standards.
- A Colorado State Identification (SID) number listed on the RFLE can be provided in lieu of a hard copy of the elimination prints.
- Elimination prints or SID numbers from all named suspects, victims, and other individuals should be included.

## Summary

These latent print guidelines are recommendations of what should be included in the initial evidence submission to the CBIFS, but do not reflect what should or should not be collected at the crime scene. In support of your agency and upon request, the CBIFS will provide training on the proper collection and submission of latent prints. Please see our General Submission Guidelines for an overview of the submission process.

Please feel free to contact us at any time regarding your latent print submissions. It is our goal to ensure your understanding, educate you on situations that may be unfamiliar to your agency and to work collaboratively to ensure the citizens of Colorado are served at the highest possible level.