



Quality Division Use Only

Quality Tracking #:	2019-066	Classification:	Incident
Non-Conformance Level:	N/A	Section:	Crime Scene
Date of Discovery:	06/20/19	Date of Incident:	05/18/19

Forensic Case Number(s), if applicable:	Agency Case Number(s), if applicable:
2019-09170	062768019

Description of Non-conformance:

Crime scene investigators (CSIs) missed a friction ridge impression in possible blood (referred to as a patent print) while processing a scene on May 18, 2019. While this was not a direct SOP violation, HFSC recognizes that because comparison quality photographs were not captured at the scene, no further evaluation of the friction ridge details can be performed.

Additional Information/Follow-Up:

While reviewing crime scene photographs as part of the technical review of this case, a Crime Scene Unit (CSU) supervisor observed friction ridge detail in possible blood (a patent print). The scene was an interior residence with areas of possible blood spatter on the walls throughout the house. Two CSIs initially responded to the scene. One of the CSIs focused on documenting the blood spatter and the second CSI focused on marking areas of interest to be swabbed for DNA. A third CSI arrived at the scene later and swabbed the marked areas, collecting possible evidence for DNA testing. While CSIs have received training in patent prints, the bulk of their friction ridge evidence training focused on processing and collecting latent prints (friction ridge evidence that is not visible to the naked eye which must be processed to render the print visible). When possible blood is present at a scene, the bulk of their training was focused on documentation and swabbing for DNA testing, not print analysis. During interviews conducted to determine the cause of this nonconformance, the first two CSIs stated that they did not observe the friction ridge impression. Because the third CSI's role at the scene was to swab the marked areas for DNA, there was no expectation for her to evaluate the scene for possible additional evidence.



Summary of Root Cause Analysis:

Note: Incidents are documented for tracking purposes and trend analysis. Root Cause Analysis is not required for incidents.

N/A

Actions Taken:

The CSU SOP was revised to include language requiring CSIs to evaluate surfaces for friction ridge detail. Training regarding the revised SOP was provided on 8/8/2019, a PowerPoint presentation on the changes to the SOP was provided on 8/22/2019 and testing on the revised SOP was completed on 8/30/2019 through Qualtrax. A CSU supervisor sat down with each CSI to discuss this incident and to explain the importance of the missed item. Once explained, questions were asked and answered on how the situation could have been handled better and what steps to take to prevent a recurrence at future scenes.

Section Manager: Domingo Villarreal

Date: 09/12/19

Division Director: Jerry Pena

Date: 09/17/19

Incidents or Corrective Actions that involve the Biology/DNA section are reviewed by the Technical Leader and CODIS Administrator.

Technical Leader: N/A

Date: N/A

CODIS Administrator: N/A

Date: N/A

Quality Director: Erika Ziemak

Date Closed: 11/04/19