



**Quality Division Use Only**

Quality Tracking #:	2021-049	Classification:	Incident
Non-Conformance Level:	N/A	Section:	Firearms
Date of Discovery:	08/10/21	Date of Incident:	06/28/21

Forensic Case Number(s), if applicable:	Agency Case Number(s), if applicable:
2021-27559	084784621

**Description of Non-conformance:**  
A Firearms Examiner did not send a fired cartridge case with possible blood to the Forensic Biology section to be swabbed for DNA prior to decontamination.

**Additional Information/Follow-Up:**  
The submitting agency did not request DNA testing on any of the items submitted to HFSC. However, the Firearms SOP requires that evidence with possible blood be swabbed for DNA as a precautionary measure in order to preserve the possible blood, unless it was previously collected by HFSC's Crime Scene Unit (CSU). In this instance a fired cartridge case was submitted to HFSC through the auto-request process. The item was described by the submitting agency as "1 9mm FIRED CASING \*BLOOD\*" and had been collected by the Houston Police Department (HPD), not the Crime Scene Unit.

**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 fired cartridge case, HFSC item 001, was processed for NIBIN on 06/28/2021. The nonconformance was discovered on 08/10/2021 during a post-mortem review of the case record. Post-mortem reviews, where case records undergo an additional technical review after reports have been issued, are conducted on an ongoing basis at HFSC by all technical sections. These reviews are conducted in part to monitor the effectiveness of the technical review process.

The reviewer notified the section manager, who then informed the original Firearms Examiner. The Firearms Examiner had the evidence brought back to HFSC from the HPD Property Room on 08/16/2021 in order to examine the packaging. He was able to confirm that the evidence was collected by HPD and not CSU.

Although the fired cartridge case was not swabbed for DNA, the Firearms section sent both the firearm and the magazine (HFSC items 002 and 003), to Forensic Biology to be swabbed for DNA as required by the Firearms section standard operating procedure.

The Firearms Examiner emailed the investigating officer to let him know that potential DNA evidence was not collected from the fired cartridge case and provided his contact information to the investigator in case there were any additional questions or concerns.

Section Manager: Donna Eudaley

Date: 11/01/21

Division Director: Amy Castillo

Date: 11/08/21

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: 11/12/21