



Latent Print Section
Reporting Results and Interpretations
Forensic Analysis Division



1. Reporting Results and Interpretations

1.1. Scope

- 1.1.1. This procedure details reporting examination results in the Latent Print Section of the Houston Forensic Science Center (HFSC).

1.2. Procedure

1.2.1. Case Records

- 1.2.1.1. Case records must be accurate, complete, and in accordance with all of HFSC's policies, procedures, and standards.
- 1.2.1.2. Case record documentation shall be of sufficient detail that in the absence of the original case examiner, another qualified examiner could evaluate what was done and interpret the data. A chain of custody shall be maintained for any evidence that moves through the Latent Print Section.
- 1.2.1.3. When referencing a previously released/published document (e.g. Latent Print Report, Examiner Case Records) the date the document was released/published shall be included.
- 1.2.1.4. At a minimum, the case record shall contain the following information:
- Forensic Case Number.
 - Date case records were generated.
 - Examiner/Technician writing the case records.
 - Items of Evidence.
 - Items of Evidence listed in the case records and final report shall be the same.
 - Examinations & processing techniques performed.
 - This shall include the date(s) performed and results.
 - Results of Analysis, Comparison, and Evaluation.
 - Name of the verifying examiner, date, and results of the verifying examiner.
 - This is completed by the verifying examiner on Verification FRM-1
 - Results of any required Automated Fingerprint Identification System searches completed prior to writing the report.

1.2.2. Reports

- 1.2.2.1. All examination results shall be reported in the laboratory report.
- 1.2.2.2. All reports shall be simple, accurate, and complete.
- 1.2.2.3. Reports should stand alone without the need to refer to other documents, with the exception of previous reports issued in the same or associated cases.
- 1.2.2.4. The following information should be addressed in all Latent Print Processing or Comparison Reports (if applicable).
- Statement that processing or analysis was conducted.
 - Unique identifiers for all latent prints present or developed on evidence.
 - Number of latent prints found on each item of evidence.
 - Request for additional record finger and/or palm prints.



- Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) search results and whether unidentified friction ridge impression(s) were registered in the unsolved latent file (ULF).

1.2.2.5. There are four possible latent print results which are used in reports generated by the HFSC Latent Print Section for comparison and AFIS searches.

- **Identification** - An identification is the determination by a qualified examiner that two friction ridge impressions originated from the same source due to sufficient quality and quantity of corresponding information such that the examiner would not expect to see that same arrangement of features repeated in a print from another source.
- **Exclusion** – The decision by the examiner that the impressions compared had sufficient features in disagreement to conclude that the impressions did not originate from the same source.
- **Inconclusive** - Inconclusive can be used under two (2) circumstances based on observations from the examiner:
 - A result of incomplete or unclear record finger, palm, or foot prints (lack of area of detail needed in the records to compare to the latent print or record prints are of poor quality such as over inking, distortion, etc.)
 - Result reached when the latent print has corresponding features, in sequence, but lacks sufficiency to identify. Can also apply in conjunction with the previous having dissimilar features but not enough to exclude as being from the same source.
 - Reasons for reaching Inconclusive Results must be documented in the case record and the final report.
- **Preliminary Association** – This conclusion is used only as a result of a Preliminary AFIS Association. (See FAD-LP-AFIS Operations)
 - A Preliminary Association is the result of searching an image of a latent print impression in AFIS and the conclusion is reached, based on comparing the returned candidate records onscreen, that the two friction ridge impressions have corresponding characteristics contained within that are sufficient to conclude they **MAY** have originated from the same source.
 - Official identifications are **NEVER** reported from Preliminary AFIS Association results alone.

1.2.3. Standardized Report Phrasing

1.2.3.1. In an effort to standardize report writing in the Latent Print Section, standardized phrasing is provided below. Although the standardized report phrasing will effectively convey the results of most analysis, it is recognized that these phrases will not fit every reporting situation. Therefore, this list is not limiting.

1.2.3.2. Latent Analysis/Latent to Records/Physical Processing



- Item(s) _____ through _____ were visually analyzed for the presence of latent prints.
- Item(s) _____ through _____ were physically and chemically processed for the development of latent prints.
- A total of _____ latent impressions were developed on Items _____ and labeled L- _____ through L- _____.
- All latent impressions developed will be analyzed to determine if they are of value for comparison purposes. A separate supplemental report will be issued with the results.
- No latent prints of value for comparison purposes were found on Item(s) _____.
- _____ latent fingerprint(s)/palm print(s)/impression(s) of value for comparison purposes was/were found on Item(s) _____. The latent print(s) was/were labeled L-____ through L-_____.
- Any latent impressions not listed were analyzed and determined to be of no value for comparison purposes.
- Upon further analysis, the latent print(s) labeled L-____ was/were determined to be of no value for comparison purposes.
- Upon further analysis, the latent prints labeled L-____ was/were determined to be of value for comparison purposes.
- The latent prints, labeled L-_____ through L-_____ were compared to the record fingerprint/palm prints bearing the name ____ contained in Item _____.
- All latent prints of value for comparison purposes in the case have been identified.

1.2.3.3. Results Table

1.2.3.3.1. Results of comparisons conducted in any case are listed in a table on the laboratory report. **See the table below.**

1.2.3.3.2. *Statements to be included in the "Results" portion of the chart:*



- As a result of (a) search(s) through the Federal Bureau of Investigation's, City of Houston's, and/or the Texas Department of Public Safety's Automated Fingerprint Identification System(s) (AFIS), the latent prints, labeled L-____ through L-____ were compared to the record fingerprint/palm prints bearing the name ____ contained in Item ____.
- The latent print(s) of value labeled L-__ through L-__ was/were searched in the Automated Fingerprint Identification System(s) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, City of Houston, and the Texas Department of Public Safety with negative results. The latent print was/was not registered to the respective Unsolved Latent File(s) (ULF).
- The latent print(s) searched were/was not registered to the Unsolved Latent File (ULF).

1.2.3.6. Preliminary AFIS Association Reporting

- **An official identification HAS NOT been effected at this time and this report is being provided as an investigative lead only.**

Under no circumstances does the association contained in this report indicate an official identification has been effected as defined by the Scientific Working Group on Friction Ridge Analysis, Study, and Technology's Standards for Examining Friction Ridge Impressions and Resulting Conclusions.

The latent print(s) of value labeled L-__ through L-__ was/were searched in the Automated Fingerprint Identification System(s) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, City of Houston, and the Texas Department of Public Safety. As a result, it has been concluded there **MAY be** a preliminary association between (**# of latent prints**) latent prints submitted with the below listed person(s):

Last Name, First Name, Middle Name FBI#/SID#/HPD#

If the submitting agency desires that an official confirmatory comparison be made by a Latent Print Examiner between the latent print(s) and the record prints of **Last name, First name, Middle name FBI#/SID#/HPD**, please submit a new request to the Latent Print Section for a full confirmatory examination. If requesting through the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), add in the comments section that this is a request for a full confirmatory comparison. If you



do not have access to LIMS or for assistance in submitting the request, you can contact HFSC at: 1-844-473-6742 or via email at triage@houstonforensicscience.org.

Once a full, confirmatory comparison has been conducted by a Latent Print Examiner, it will result in one of the following conclusions:

Identification
Exclusion
Inconclusive

For additional clarification regarding conclusion statements, please contact the Latent Print Section or go to www.houstonforensicscience.org and navigate to the Latent Prints SOP website.

1.2.3.7. Non-Retained Biometric AFIS Reverse Hits

- **An official identification HAS NOT been effected at this time and this report is being provided as an investigative lead only.**

Under no circumstances does the association contained in this report indicate an official identification has been effected as defined by the Scientific Working Group on Friction Ridge Analysis, Study, and Technology's Standards for Examining Friction Ridge Impressions and Resulting Conclusions.

As a result of a reverse AFIS search of a latent print registered to the Unsolved Latent File (ULF) in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), it has been concluded there **MAY be** a preliminary association between (# of latent prints) latent prints with the below listed person:

Last name, First name, Middle name FBI# _____ (Non-retained biometric submitted to FBI by ORI _____).

The record prints are unavailable through the FBI AFIS on the above listed person; therefore, an identification has **NOT** been effected.

If the submitting agency desires that an official confirmatory comparison be made by a Latent Print Examiner between the latent print(s) and the record prints of



Last name, First name, Middle name FBI#/SID#/HPD, please submit a new request to the Latent Print Section for a full confirmatory examination. If requesting through the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), add in the comments section that this is a request for a full confirmatory comparison. If you do not have access to LIMS or for assistance in submitting the request, you can contact HFSC at: 1-844-473-6742 or via email at triage@houstonforensicscience.org.

Once a full, confirmatory comparison has been conducted by a Latent Print Examiner, it will result in one of the following conclusions:

Identification
Exclusion
Inconclusive

For additional clarification regarding conclusion statements, please contact the Latent Print Section or go to www.houstonforensicscience.org and navigate to the Latent Prints SOP website.

1.2.3.8. AFIS Reverse Hits

- **An official identification HAS NOT been effected at this time and this report is being provided as an investigative lead only.**

Under no circumstances does the association contained in this report indicate an official identification has been effected as defined by the Scientific Working Group on Friction Ridge Analysis, Study, and Technology's Standards for Examining Friction Ridge Impressions and Resulting Conclusions.

As a result of a reverse AFIS search of a latent print registered to the Unsolved Latent File (ULF) in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's/ State of Texas'/City of Houston's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), it has been concluded there **MAY** be a **preliminary** association between (# of latent prints) latent prints with the below listed person:

Last Name, First Name, Middle Name FBI#/SID#/HPD#

If the submitting agency desires that an official confirmatory comparison be made by a Latent Print Examiner between the latent print(s) and the record prints of Last name, First name, Middle name FBI#/SID#/HPD, please submit a new request



to the Latent Print Section for a full confirmatory examination. If requesting through the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), add in the comments section that this is a request for a full confirmatory comparison. If you do not have access to LIMS or for assistance in submitting the request, you can contact HFSC at: 1-844-473-6742 or via email at triage@houstonforensicscience.org.

Once a full, confirmatory comparison has been conducted by a Latent Print Examiner, it will result in one of the following conclusions:

- Identification
- Exclusion
- Inconclusive

For additional clarification regarding conclusion statements, please contact the Latent Print Section or go to www.houstonforensicscience.org and navigate to the Latent Prints SOP website.

1.2.3.9. Limited Comparisons from AFIS Results

- As a result of (a) search(es) through the Federal Bureau of Investigation's, City of Houston's, and/or the Texas Department of Public Safety's Automated Fingerprint Identification System(s) (AFIS), the latent prints, labeled L-____ through L-____/ L-____, L-____, L-____, and L-____ were compared to the record fingerprint/palm prints bearing the name ____ contained in Item ____.

*****Insert Results Table*****

The remaining latent prints that were searched in AFIS with negative results, **WERE NOT** compared to the record prints listed in the report.

If additional comparisons are needed between the remaining unidentified latent prints and the record prints identified through AFIS, please submit a new laboratory request to the Houston Forensic Science Center's Latent Print Section.

1.2.3.10. Need Additional/Clear Records

- For a complete examination, please submit (*fill in what type of prints are needed*).



1.2.3.11. Registering to the Unsolved Latent File

- If the latent fingerprints/palm prints require registering to the Unsolved Latent File (ULF) for future possible matches, please submit a fully rolled set of quality finger and/or palm prints from the complainant for elimination purposes. After the complainant has been eliminated as being the source, the latent prints will be registered to the ULF.

1.2.3.12. Court Testimony Record Prints

- Please submit fully rolled inked finger and palm prints of the above listed individual at least thirty (30) days in advance if courtroom testimony is required for the identifications in this report. A comparison will be conducted between the database prints and the submitted prints to determine if both originated from the same source. A supplemental report will be generated with the results.

1.2.3.13. Disposition of Evidence

- All Items of evidence will be returned to the submitting agency.
- Digital images of the latent impression(s) developed in this case will remain on file at this laboratory.
- Item(s) _____ will be retained digitally within the Houston Forensic Science Center's Latent Print Section.

1.2.3.14. Rejection/ Lack of Required Information

- Item(s) ___ was/were not analyzed or compared due to the lack of required submission information.

The Latent Print Section of the Houston Forensic Science Center lacks the ability to retrieve record finger and palm prints without an Agency Identification Number, State Identification Number, and/or the Federal Bureau of Investigation Identification Number.

If complete examinations are still required for this case, please re-submit the laboratory request including the suspect's name, date of birth, and Agency Identification Number, State Identification Number, and/or the



Federal Bureau of Investigation Identification Number. Please indicate on the laboratory request if the demographics are unknown/unavailable.

If you have any questions regarding the Houston Forensic Science Center Latent Print Section submission guidelines, please contact **1-844-473-6742** or the submission guidelines located on our website at www.houstonforensicscience.org

1.2.3.15. Latent to Latent Comparisons

1.2.3.15.1. Latent to latent comparisons of friction ridge skin impressions are not conducted on a routine basis. Any request received for a latent to latent impression comparison must be approved by the Section Manager.

1.2.3.15.2. If a latent to latent comparison is authorized, only positive results will be reported.

1.2.3.15.3. No conclusions of exclusions will be reported.

1.2.3.15.3.1. Latent to Latent Standardized Phrasing

- The latent prints in this case are of no value for comparison purposes.
- The latent prints, labeled L-____ and L-____ originated from the same source.
- No result can be made regarding the remaining latent prints on Item _____ and Item_____.

1.3. Records

1.3.1. Case records and reports will be maintained within the HFSC LIMS, digital image management system, and/or case record folders.

1.4. References

SWGFAST, *Document #8 Standard for the Documentation of Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation, and Verification (ACE-V)* 9/11/12 Ver 2.0

SWGFAST, *Document #10 Standards for Examining Friction Ridge Impressions and Resulting Conclusions (Latent/Tenprint)* 3/13/13 Ver. 2.0

SWGFAST, *Document #5 Standards for Reporting Friction Ridge Examinations (Latent/Tenprint)* 9/14/12 Ver. 2.0



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Defense Forensic Science Center, *CILA LP 5.10 Reporting the Results* 05 August 2014