Cell Phone Analysis

A. Purpose:

To outline the steps taken for examination of cell phones, tablets, and wearable devices

B. Responsibility:
CCEEU forensic examiners

C. Procedure:

1. In the case that the cellular, tablet, or wearable device has already been acquired, the extraction file(s) will be present on the network storage- (Refer to CC-SOP-59 Device Imaging SOP).

2. Open or create a new case record using "QR-CC-6 – Analysis Notes".
   a. Ensure the necessary sections are filled in.
   b.   The forensic system used shall be included in the section regarding forensic tools. This is to include the system name, unique identifier (serial number or DPS tag, and installed operating system).
   c. Examination results shall include any specific case details and findings as determined by the examiner.

3. It is up to the examiner to ensure their examination is within the legal scope provided by the warrant or consent form if applicable, for example, date range or artifact type.
   a. If there is a restriction provided by the warrant, the examiner is to make a smaller report which only contains artifacts within the range, and perform their examination on this. The time zone settings must reflect the current for accuracy.
   b.   If there is no restriction, the examiner is to work with the full available extraction file(s).

4. The following are common requests and are to be handled in the following manner:
   a. Narcotic related requests – provide a full extraction report from each submission, following any restrictions set forth by the warrant or consent form if present. If keywords are provided on the checklist, bookmarks or tags can be included for these terms.
   b.   Untimely deaths and/or suicides – provide a full extraction from each submission, following any restrictions set forth by the warrant or consent form if present. No further examination is necessary.

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    c. CSAM related requests – provide a report to include only the artifacts tagged or bookmarked by the examiner. If keywords are provided on the checklist or within additional paperwork such as a cybertip, these are to be included if present.

        i. If an identified victim is part of the investigation, it is the responsibility of the examiner to request a known image or description of the victim (juvenile or adult) from the investigating officer before reviewing the data for comparison purposes.

5. Additional requests may be made by the submitting agency outside of the ones described above. In this case, it is up to the examiner to complete the case efficiently based on their training, knowledge, and experience and following any appropriate SOP's.

    a. Other protocols can be found outlined and explained in the forensic software reference documents, as well as training documentation pertaining to software and procedures.

    b. If the request is outside of the training and/or scope of the unit, the Lead and Manager will be contacted to determine the best course of action for analysis.

6. In some instances, the cellular phone, tablet, or wearable device may not be supported for extraction, while the contents are accessible. The examiner is to indicate this in the report and let the submitting agency manually review the contents.

7. For instances where files are to be sent to NCMEC for a CRIS review, or are identified as a suspected new victim, refer to "CC SOP-32 – NCMEC Requirements".

8. Upon completion of the analysis, proceed with "CC-SOP-9 – Laboratory Report Protocol" to produce the report(s) and mark the case as draft complete.

    a. Refer to "GL-4 – LIMS" for further guidance.

D. References:

1. Training books and notes from applicable software
2. Help files located either online or within the applicable software

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