LP SOP-06 Report of Findings Document ID: 1202

Revision: 12

Effective Date: 07/12/2023

Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

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A. Purpose:

Guidelines for preparing reports of findings and case reviews by the latent print examiners.

B. Responsibility:

Latent Print Examiners

C. Procedure:

- 1. All latent print comparisons, regardless of the findings, will be verified by another competent latent print examiner, who will also technically review and countersign the report.
- 2. All items examined will be listed.
- 3. Latent prints and known prints will be indexed or listed in the examiner's report, in such a way, that there is no confusion as to what is being represented in the examiner's findings.
- 4. The result of all comparisons and or conclusions, regardless of the findings, should be clearly explained in the examiner's report. These conclusions will be based on the information contained on the case jacket worksheets, which may include examination activity conducted, sequence of the activities, development techniques, photography/digital imaging used, AFIS/NGI searches conducted, known exemplars used, comparisons conducted and the conclusion of such searches and/or comparisons.

The results of all comparisons and processing shall be provided in a report in a manner that is accurate, clear, unambiguous and objective. The report shall include all the information as requested by the Request for Analysis. The report will include all information necessary for the interpretation of the results and the methodology used to obtain the results. Refer to LP SOP-18 (Friction Ridge Skin Comparison Methodology) for conclusions that may be provided in a report.

5. The current latent print examination report should adhere to the following outline. However, if the form or outline does not clearly or adequately reflect the examiner's findings, the report may be modified to a more appropriate format or style, which must include all pertinent information. Where dropdown menus are available for report field entry, the appropriate abbreviation(s) or phrase contained therein will be used for that specific field. This may require manually entry or editing in the field. When a description is included with an abbreviation, only the abbreviation(s) will be entered in the field. When the dropdown menu does not contain the required field information, then the examiner has the discretion to enter the appropriate information. The typical outline for a latent print report is as follows:

Laboratory Case Number Submitting Agency and Address Agency Case Number Date of Request

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Date of Report

Report To

Evidence Submitted

Submission Itemization

Examination/Processing Method(s)

Known Impressions Obtained For Comparison (if applicable)

Results Of Item/Impression(s) Of Value Documented, Searched & Compared

Analyst Comments (if applicable)

Disposition of the evidence

Analyst's Signature

Technical Reviewer's Signature

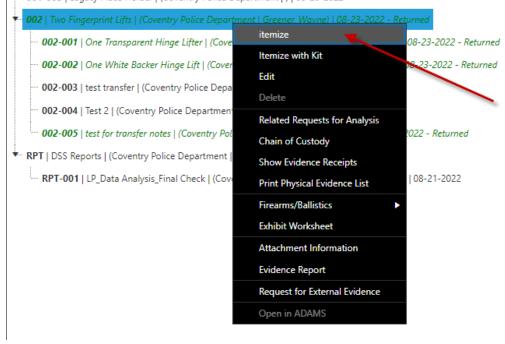
Abbreviation/Definition Key

- 6. Supplemental Reports
- 6.1 Reports which are amended to add additional information due to additional work being performed on the case, will be clearly marked as "Supplemental Reports".
- 7. Amended Reports
- 7.1 A report which has been re-issued due to a clarification or correction will be clearly marked as "Amended Report". The header of the report will give a brief description of the need for amendment. The report that is being amended will need to be uploaded to JusticeTrax as described in the guidance contained in GL4.
- 8.0 When an identification is made, the report may be emailed to the requesting investigator. A copy of the email sent will be kept in the case jacket. This is considered an administrative document and will need the case examiner's initials and case number on the printed document in the case jacket.
- 9.0 In some cases, a preliminary result may be necessary for an ongoing investigation. In these circumstances, the Latent Print Unit Supervisor and Deputy Director will approve the release of a preliminary report. The result of analysis (identification, exclusion or other result) may be issued following the format and reporting language as outlined in LP SOP-26, Section 5.
- 10. Reporting Results in JusticeTrax 3.8 (or greater)
- 10.1 In August of 2022, DSS updated its JusticeTrax LIMS system to version 3.8. As part of this update, the Latent Print Unit began using crystal reports for generating its report. In order to produce a report, a sub-item must be present in the Submission to attach a result for the latent

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print. As older cases need to have additional analysis or ULD hits are generated, this method will be used as needed for reporting items that were not previously itemized.

- 10.2 If a result needs to be reported for an item not previously sub-itemized, the analyst will need to create a sub-item using the following guidance:
 - a. The analyst will select the item that needs the sub-item created. The analyst will create the sub-item name and use the appropriate item number to reflect the result that needs to be reported.



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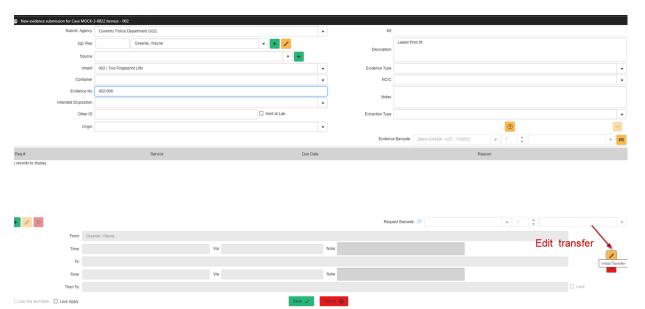
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b. The analyst will click on the "edit icon" in the bottom transfer area and then complete the transfer from the outside representative to themself and in the Notes area of the first transfer, they will type "Virtual Transfer". This notation will appear in the Chain of Custody report to indicate that the item of evidence was not physically submitted to the laboratory for this itemization creation.



- c. After the sub-item has been created and the transfer saved, the analyst will then open the transfer window and return the sub-item and the parent submission back to the agency representative. The Analyst will again add in the Notes area that this is a "Virtual Transfer".
- d. At the completion of this step, the analyst will need to go into the print receipt area of JusticeTrax and locate their transfer receipt back to the agency representative.
 - i. The analyst will uncheck everything and then select their transfers only and then select "Print Receipt".

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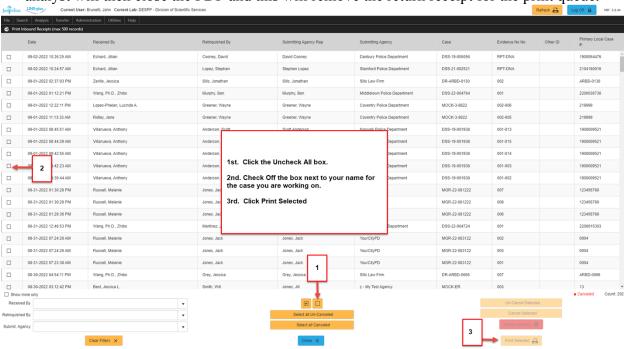
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ii. By selecting print receipt, this will open up a PDF of the Evidence Return Receipt. The analyst will then close the PDF and this will remove the return receipt for the print queue.



e. Once these steps have been completed, the analyst can then add results to the report for this sub-item.