

A. Purpose:

To define certain words and acronyms utilized by the Latent Print Section.

B. Responsibility:

Latent Print Examiners

C. Glossary:

ACE-V	The acronym for the methodology utilized during friction ridge examinations: Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation and Verification.
AFIS	The acronym for A utomated F ingerprint I dentification S ystem - A computer-based system for reading, cataloging, searching, matching and storing fingerprints and related data.
Analysis	The first step of the ACE-V methodology. The assessment of an impression to determine suitability for comparison.
Anchor Point	An anchor point is a concrete group of friction ridge features that allow the examiner the ability to focus in on a section of an impression for the purposes of making an identification or to eliminate a known impression from a questioned impression. Examples of anchor points are clearly defined major creases, distinctive ridge flow, deltas, cores, triradius, loops, whorls and pattern vestigia. Anchor points in many instances can help the examiner determine the anatomical location or orientation of a partial latent impression.
Arch – Plain	A fingerprint pattern in which the friction ridges enter on one side of the impression and flow, or tend to flow, out the other side with a rise or wave in the center.
Arch – Tented	A type of fingerprint pattern that possesses either an angle, an upthrust, or two of the three basic characteristics of the loop.
Bench Notes	Handwritten notations made by the examiner during the examination of the submitted items of evidence.
Bifurcation	The point at which one friction ridge divides into two friction ridges.

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Bridge	A connecting friction ridge between, and generally at right angles to, parallel running friction ridges.
Characteristics	Features of the friction ridges. Commonly referred to as Galton details, minutiae, points, ridge endings, dots and bifurcations.
Classification	The alpha numeric formula of finger and palm print patterns used as a for filing and searching.
Comparison	The second step of the ACE-V methodology. The observation of two or more impressions to determine the existence of discrepancies, dissimilarities, or similarities.
Comparison Value	References a poor quality friction ridge impression in which the examiner does not feel it would be proper to dismiss the impression as totally worthless. Impressions that fall into this category may be able to be identified to its source. In some instances after further review the impression may ultimately be reclassified as of no value.
Complete Friction Ridge Exemplars	Also known as major case prints. A systematic recording of all friction ridge detail appearing on the palmar sides of the hands. This includes the extreme sides of the palms; and joints (phalanges), tips, and sides of the fingers.
Core	The approximate center of a pattern.
Court Charts	Photographic or digital enlargements in a side-by-side relationship of latent print/inked print. Identifying characteristics are plotted in such a manner as to assist the examiner in demonstrating the method of identification to members of a court during legal proceedings.
Discrepancy	The presence of friction ridge detail in one impression that does not exist in the corresponding area of another impression.
Dissimilarity	A difference in appearance between two friction ridge impressions.
Dissociated Ridges	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Disrupted, rather than continuous, friction ridges.2. An area of friction ridges units that did not form into friction ridges.

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Distal	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Farthest away from the center point of attachment.2. The direction away from the body.
Distortion	Variances in the reproduction of friction ridge skin detail caused by pressure, movement, force, contact surface, and so forth.
Dot	An isolated friction ridge unit whose length approximates its width in size.
Edgeoscopy	The study of the morphological characteristics of the contour or shape of the edges of friction ridge skin and their resulting impressions.
Electronic Imaging	Capturing an image digitally. Once digitized, the image can be processed, saved for future use and/or printed.
Elimination Prints	Exemplars of friction ridge skin detail of persons known to have had legitimate access to an item.
Enclosure	A single friction ridge that bifurcates and rejoins after a short course and continues as a single friction ridge.
Ending Ridge	A single friction ridge that terminates within the friction ridge structure.
Evaluation	The third step of the ACE-V methodology. At this step an examiner assesses the value of the details observed during the analysis and comparison steps and thereby results in a conclusion.
Exclusion	The determination by an examiner that there is sufficient quality and quantity of detail in disagreement to conclude that two areas of friction ridge impressions did not originate from the same source.
Exemplar	The known prints of an individual, recorded electronically, photographically, by ink, or by another medium.
Fingerprint	An impression of the friction ridges of all or any part of the finger.
Focal Points	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In classification, those areas that are enclosed within the pattern area of loops and whorls. They are also known as the core and the delta.2. In ACE-V, the areas selected for comparison purposes (see Anchor Point and Target Area).

Friction Ridge	A raised portion of the epidermis on the palmar or plantar skin, consisting of one or more connected ridge units.
Friction Ridge Detail	An area comprised of the combination of ridge flow, ridge characteristics, and ridge structure.
Friction Ridge Unit	A single section of ridge containing one pore.
Furrows	Valleys or depressions between friction ridges.
Galton Details	see “characteristics”
Henry Classification	A system of fingerprint classification named for Sir Edward Richard Henry (1850 - 1931).
Hyperhidrosis	Excessive sweating the hands and feet.
Hypothenar	Meaty portion of the palm below the little finger extending to the wrist.
IAFIS	The acronym for Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, the FBI’s national fingerprint database. IAFIS has been replaced by NGI.
Impression Number	The unique case specific number or number/letter combination which indicates a particular friction ridge impression for bench note referencing and reporting purposes. (see index below).
Index	Index, Indexed or Indexing refers to the unique case specific number or number/letter combination which indicates a particular friction ridge impression for bench note referencing and reporting purposes. Index is also synonymous with impression number.
Identification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. See Individualization. 2. In some forensic disciplines, this term denotes the similarity of class characteristics.
Identification Value	References a friction ridge impression in which the examiner has no doubt that if given the proper exemplars, the impression can be identified.
Incipient Ridge	A friction ridge not fully developed that may appear shorter and thinner than fully developed friction ridges.

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Inconclusive	During Evaluation, the conclusion reached that neither sufficient agreement exists to individualize nor sufficient disagreement exists to exclude.
Individualization	The determination of an examiner that there is sufficient quality and quantity of detail in agreement to conclude that two friction ridge impressions originated from the same source.
Inked print	A deliberate and intentional recording of the friction ridge details present on the fingers, hands, and feet for the purpose of comparison to latent prints or for personal identification records. This recording is normally accomplished by applying a substance such as black printers ink to the friction ridge area and then bringing it in contact with a suitable receiving surface such as a fingerprint card or piece of white paper.
Known Print	(Finger, Palm, Foot) A recording of an individual's friction ridges with black ink, electronic imaging, photography, or other medium on a contrasting background. See inked print.
Latent print	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Transferred impression of friction ridge detail not readily visible.2. Generic term used for questioned friction ridge detail.
Lateral Reversal	A mirror image.
Level 1 Detail	Friction ridge flow and general morphological information.
Level 2 Detail	Individual friction ridge paths and friction ridge events (e.g., bifurcations, ending ridges, and dots).
Level 3 Detail	Friction ridge dimensional attributes (e.g., width, edge shapes, and pores).
Lift or Lifter	An adhesive or other medium on which recovered friction ridge detail is preserved.
Matrix	The substance that is deposited or removed from friction ridge skin when leaving an impression.
NGI	Next Generation Identification; the FBI biometric database which replaced IAFIS.

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No Value	References a friction ridge impression that is not suitable for identification or comparison.
Target Group	Is a group of level two friction ridge detail which can be associated with an anchor point in an effort to effect a conclusion. Level three detail may also be utilized in conjunction with level two detail (but only when in both impressions it is clear and distinct).
Thenar	Meaty portion of the palm below the thumb.
Tonal Reversal	Pertaining to friction ridge analysis it is the inversion of shading and color tone.
Polydactyism	The presence of supernumerary digits (one or more extra fingers or toes).
Preservation	A method by which a latent print is recovered for comparison with known inked prints. Preservation can be accomplished by proper handling, photography, lifting or any other acceptable method.
Verification	The fourth step of the ACE-V methodology. The independent opinion of an examiner as to the conclusion effected by another qualified examiner.