

**A. Purpose:**

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

**B. Responsibility:**

Latent Print Examiners

**C. Glossary:**

<b>ACE-V</b>	The acronym for the methodology utilized during friction ridge examinations: Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation and Verification.
<b>AFIS</b>	The acronym for <b>A</b> utomated <b>F</b> ingerprint <b>I</b> dentification <b>S</b> ystem - A computer-based system for reading, cataloging, searching, matching and storing fingerprints and related data.
<b>Analysis</b>	The first step of the ACE-V methodology. The assessment of an impression to determine suitability for comparison.
<b>Anchor Point</b>	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.
<b>Arch – Plain</b>	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.
<b>Arch – Tented</b>	A type of fingerprint pattern that possesses either an angle, an upthrust, or two of the three basic characteristics of the loop.
<b>Bench Notes</b>	Handwritten notations made by the examiner during the examination of the submitted items of evidence.
<b>Bifurcation</b>	The point at which one friction ridge divides into two friction ridges.
<b>Bridge</b>	A connecting friction ridge between, and generally at right angles to, parallel running friction ridges.

<b>Characteristics</b>	Features of the friction ridges. Commonly referred to as Galton details, minutiae, points, ridge endings, dots and bifurcations.
<b>Classification</b>	The alpha numeric formula of finger and palm print patterns used as-a for filing and searching.
<b>Comparison</b>	The second step of the ACE-V methodology. The observation of two or more impressions to determine the existence of discrepancies, dissimilarities, or similarities.
<b>Comparison Value</b>	References a friction ridge impression which does not meet the criteria to be referenced as “identification value”. Some impressions referenced as comparison value may ultimately not be able to be identified and may be downgraded as to their value. Comparison value impressions are entered into AFIS at the discretion of the examiner.
<b>Complete Friction Ridge Exemplars</b>	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.
<b>Core</b>	The approximate center of a pattern.
<b>Court Charts</b>	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.
<b>Discrepancy</b>	The presence of friction ridge detail in one impression that does not exist in the corresponding area of another impression.
<b>Dissimilarity</b>	A difference in appearance between two friction ridge impressions.
<b>Dissociated Ridges</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Disrupted, rather than continuous, friction ridges.</li><li>2. An area of friction ridges units that did not form into friction ridges.</li></ol>
<b>Distal</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Farthest away from the center point of attachment.</li><li>2. The direction away from the body.</li></ol>

<b>Distortion</b>	Variances in the reproduction of friction ridge skin detail caused by pressure, movement, force, contact surface, and so forth.
<b>Dot</b>	An isolated friction ridge unit whose length approximates its width in size.
<b>Edgeoscopy</b>	The study of the morphological characteristics of the contour or shape of the edges of friction ridge skin and their resulting impressions.
<b>Electronic Imaging</b>	Capturing an image digitally. Once digitized, the image can be processed, saved for future use and/or printed.
<b>Elimination Prints</b>	Exemplars of friction ridge skin detail of persons known to have had legitimate access to an item.
<b>Enclosure</b>	A single friction ridge that bifurcates and rejoins after a short course and continues as a single friction ridge.
<b>Ending Ridge</b>	A single friction ridge that terminates within the friction ridge structure.
<b>Evaluation</b>	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.
<b>Exclusion</b>	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.
<b>Exemplar</b>	The known prints of an individual, recorded electronically, photographically, by ink, or by another medium.
<b>Fingerprint</b>	An impression of the friction ridges of all or any part of the finger.
<b>Focal Points</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>2. In ACE-V, the areas selected for comparison purposes (see Anchor Point and Target Area).</li></ol>
<b>Friction Ridge</b>	A raised portion of the epidermis on the palmar or plantar skin, consisting of one or more connected ridge units.

<b>Friction Ridge Detail</b>	An area comprised of the combination of ridge flow, ridge characteristics, and ridge structure.
<b>Friction Ridge Unit</b>	A single section of ridge containing one pore.
<b>Furrows</b>	Valleys or depressions between friction ridges.
<b>Galton Details</b>	see “characteristics”
<b>Henry Classification</b>	A system of fingerprint classification named for Sir Edward Richard Henry (1850 - 1931).
<b>Highly Probable</b>	Evidence is very persuasive, yet some critical feature or quality is missing so that an identification is not in order.
<b>Hyperhidrosis</b>	Excessive sweating the hands and feet.
<b>Hypohidrosis</b>	A disorder in which a person exhibits diminished sweating in response to appropriate stimuli.
<b>Hypothenar</b>	Meaty portion of the palm below the little finger extending to the wrist.
<b>IAFIS</b>	The acronym for Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, the FBI’s national fingerprint database. IAFIS has been replaced by NGI.
<b>Impression Number</b>	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).
<b>Index</b>	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.
<b>Identification</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. See Individualization.</li><li>2. In some forensic disciplines, this term denotes the similarity of class characteristics.</li></ol>
<b>Identification Value</b>	References the quality of a friction ridge impression that meets the criteria as outlined in LP SOP 18.

<b>Incipient Ridge</b>	A friction ridge not fully developed that may appear shorter and thinner than fully developed friction ridges.
<b>Inconclusive</b>	During Evaluation, the conclusion reached that neither sufficient agreement exists to individualize nor sufficient disagreement exists to exclude.
<b>Individualization</b>	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.
<b>Inked print</b>	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.
<b>Known Print</b>	(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.
<b>Latent print</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Transferred impression of friction ridge detail not readily visible.</li><li>2. Generic term used for questioned friction ridge detail.</li></ol>
<b>Lateral Reversal</b>	A mirror image.
<b>Level 1 Detail</b>	Friction ridge flow and general morphological information.
<b>Level 2 Detail</b>	Individual friction ridge paths and friction ridge events (e.g., bifurcations, ending ridges, and dots).
<b>Level 3 Detail</b>	Friction ridge dimensional attributes (e.g., width, edge shapes, and pores).
<b>Lift or Lifter</b>	An adhesive or other medium on which recovered friction ridge detail is preserved.
<b>Matrix</b>	The substance that is deposited or removed from friction ridge skin when leaving an impression.
<b>NGI</b>	Next Generation Identification; the FBI biometric database which replaced IAFIS.

<b>No Value</b>	References a friction ridge impression that is not suitable for identification or comparison.
<b>Target Group</b>	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).
<b>Thenar</b>	Meaty portion of the palm below the thumb.
<b>Tonal Reversal</b>	Pertaining to friction ridge analysis it is the inversion of shading and color tone.
<b>Polydactyism</b>	The presence of supernumerary digits (one or more extra fingers or toes).
<b>Preservation</b>	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.
<b>Verification</b>	The fourth step of the ACE-V methodology. The independent opinion of an examiner as to the conclusion effected by another qualified examiner.