

*Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro***A. Purpose:**

To establish guidelines for the examination of post mortem friction ridge impressions received from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME).

B. Responsibility:

Latent Print Examiners

C. Procedure:

The OCME during the course of a death investigation may obtain post mortem friction ridge impressions via a live scan device. When the OCME requires the identification of captured friction ridge impressions the outlined procedure will be followed.

1. OCME captured friction ridge impressions will be emailed to the DPSOCME email account which is shared by State Police Bureau of Identification (SPBI) Fingerprint Section, the Division of Scientific Services (DSS) Latent Print Unit and the OCME.
2. The SPBI Fingerprint Section will first attempt a ten print search of the submitted impressions. The result of this search will be emailed back to the OCME and the DSS Latent Print Unit via the DPSOCME email account.
3. If the SPBI Fingerprint Section is unable to identify the impressions submitted by the OCME; the OCME may contact the DSS Latent Print Unit Supervisor/Lead if follow up is needed by the Latent Print Unit.
4. If follow up for identification is requested, then the case will be taken in as outlined in LP SOP 26 starting at step 3. The Request for Analysis Form will be completed by the person taking in the OCME case.
5. If follow up is requested and the email discloses that the live scan impressions are of no value for the required task; then the OCME will be notified that the post mortem friction ridge detail will need to be photographed. The digital images will be submitted through the regular evidence intake process if they cannot be emailed. OCME post mortem friction ridge detail evidence received through the regular intake process will follow guidelines 7 and 8 of this SOP if a CT-AFIS and/or NGI search is conducted.
6. If a CT-AFIS or NGI hit occurs, a tentative email will be sent to OCME as outlined in LP SOP 26. The associated SID or UCN will be run through COLLECT or III to determine if alias names and dates of birth are associated with the provided SID or UCN. If alias information is revealed, this information will be printed out and retained in the case file; and will also be reported out to the OCME to assist with their investigation.
7. If CT-AFIS and NGI searches result in no hit, then an email may be sent to the OCME indicating that no hit occurred and that an official report will follow.

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D. References

1. CGS 29-7b (b): Authorizes that the Division of Scientific Services be made available to the OCME.
2. CGS 19a-406: Authorizes Chief Medical Examiner to investigate human deaths.
3. CGS 54-142g(b): Defines the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner as a Criminal Justice Agency.