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A MODEL POLICY FOR FRICTION RIDGE EXAMINER PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT (LATENT & TENPRINT)

(To Replace: Guidelines for Professional Conduct, ver. 1.0)

Preamble

Practitioners of the friction ridge examination discipline shall regard themselves as members of a noble and honorable profession. It is their duty to serve the interests of justice to the best of their abilities at all times. They will be guided by those practices and procedures which are generally recognized within the profession to be consistent with a high level of professionalism. Their motives, methods, and actions shall at all times be above reproach and consistent with proper ethical conduct. Professional conduct contrary to the principles outlined in this model policy should be referred to an appropriate enforcement authority.

- 1** Practitioners shall cooperate with other forensic science professionals in order to promote the advancement of the friction ridge examination discipline through scientific research. Knowledge of any new discoveries, developments or techniques applicable to the friction ridge examination discipline shall be shared with the peer community.
- 2** Practitioners shall not undertake examinations or offer testimony if unqualified to do so.
- 3** Qualifications of expertise are based on knowledge, skill, education, experience and training, and shall not be misrepresented by the practitioner.
- 4** Examinations shall be conducted utilizing accepted scientific techniques and methods which are reliable, accurate and used with appropriate standards and controls.
- 5** Techniques and opinions shall be based on facts and interpretations and shall not be knowingly misrepresented.
- 6** Testimony shall be rendered in an impartial manner to promote the understanding of examinations and findings.
- 7** Privileged communications shall be kept confidential.