APPENDAGE
An attachment or connection within friction ridges.

ARCH - PLAIN
A fingerprint pattern in which the ridges enter on one side of the impression, and flow, or tend to flow, out the other 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.

ALIAS (AKA)
1. A false name.  2. Another name an individual has used. (Also Known As)

BRIDGE
A connecting friction ridge between and at generally right angles to parallel running ridges.

CLASSIFICATION
Alpha/numeric formula of finger and palm print patterns used as a guide for filing and searching.

CORE
The approximate center of a pattern.

DELTA
That point on a ridge at or nearest to the point of divergence of two type lines, and located at or directly in front of the point of divergence.

DIVERGENCE
The separation of two friction ridges that have been running parallel or nearly parallel.

FINAL
A numerical value that is derived from the ridge count of a little finger, usually the right.
FOCAL POINTS
Those areas that are enclosed within the pattern area of loops and whorls. They are also known as the core and the delta.

HENRY CLASSIFICATION

INKED PRINT (FINGER, PALM, FOOT)
A recording of the friction ridges with black ink on a suitable contrasting background.

INNER TERMINUS
See Core.

KEY
A numerical value derived from the ridge count of the first loop beginning with the right thumb exclusive of the little fingers.

LOOP - ULNAR
A type of pattern in which one or more ridges enter upon either side, recurve, touch or pass an imaginary line between delta and core and pass out, or tend to pass out, on the same side the ridges entered. The flow of the pattern runs in the direction of the ulna bone of the forearm (toward the little finger).

LOOP - RADIAL
A type of pattern in which one or more ridges enter upon either side, recurve, touch or pass an imaginary line between delta and core and pass out, or tend to pass out, on the same side the ridges entered. The flow of the pattern runs in the direction of the radius bone of the forearm (toward the thumb).

MAJOR
A value derived from the pattern types of the thumbs.

NCIC
National Crime Information Center

NCIC CLASSIFICATION
An alpha/numeric system of fingerprint classification.
OUTER TERMINUS
See Delta.

PATTERNS
The designation of friction ridge skin into basic categories of general shapes.

PATTERN AREA (CLASSIFICATION)
In the distal phalange of the fingers, the configuration of friction ridges that are utilized in classification.

PRIMARY
A numerical formula derived from the presence of any whorl pattern as they appear on the fingers.

RIDGE FLOW
The direction of a series of adjacent friction ridges. See Level 1 Detail.

RIDGE PATH
The course of a single friction ridge. See Level 2 Detail.

SECONDARY
An alpha expression derived from the pattern type of the index fingers.

SUB-SECONDARY
An alpha expression derived from the index, middle and ring fingers of both hands.

SUFFICIENT RECURVE
The space between the shoulders of a loop, free of any appendages that abut upon the recurve at a right angle on the outside.

TYPE LINES
The two innermost ridges associated with a delta that are parallel, diverge, and surround or tend to surround the pattern area.

WHORL - ACCIDENTAL
A fingerprint pattern consisting of two different types of patterns, with the exception of the plain arch, with two or more deltas; or a pattern which possesses some of the requirements for two or more different types; or a pattern which conforms to none of the definitions.
WHORL - CENTRAL POCKET LOOP
A type of fingerprint pattern which has two deltas and at least one ridge which makes, or tends to
make, one complete circuit, which may be spiral, oval, circular, or any variant of a circle. An
imaginary line drawn between the two deltas must not touch or cross any recurving ridges within
the inner pattern area.

WHORL - DOUBLE LOOP
A type of fingerprint pattern that consists of two separate loop formations with two separate and
distinct sets of shoulders and two deltas.

WHORL - PLAIN
A type of fingerprint pattern which consists of one or more ridges which make, or tend to make, a
complete circuit, with two deltas, between which, when an imaginary line is drawn, at least one
recurring ridge within the inner pattern area is cut or touched.

Note: Many of the classification terms within this glossary are based upon the FBI’s modified
Henry classification definitions.