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## **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING TO COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR LATENT PRINT EXAMINERS**

(To Replace: Minimum Qualifications for Latent Print Examiner Trainees, ver. 2.1, and Training to Competency for Latent Print Examiners, ver. 2.1)

### **Preamble**

This outline provides the recommended training program to achieve competency as a latent print examiner. The student must demonstrate knowledge of required objectives by passing written tests and practical exercises, and by communicating an understanding of the objectives and underlying principles. It is also strongly recommended that students demonstrate knowledge of the supplemental objectives listed in this document.

Candidates shall possess a bachelor's degree with science-related coursework prior to becoming a latent print examiner.

Instructors or mentors must have demonstrated competency for the topics being instructed.

### **1 Required Objectives**

#### **1.1 Principles and Foundations**

- 1.1.1** Understanding of the basic foundations for friction ridge examination (persistence and uniqueness) as a means of identifying the source of an impression.
- 1.1.2** Understanding of the biology and physiology of friction ridge skin.
- 1.1.3** Understanding of the scientific methodology and the application of ACE-V to friction ridge examination.
- 1.1.4** Knowledge of the history of fingerprints.
- 1.1.5** Understanding of the use of fingerprints, palm prints, and footprints in criminal and civil applications.

#### **1.2 Friction Ridge Pattern Recognition and Interpretation**

- 1.2.1** Understanding of common terminology and definitions associated with friction ridge pattern recognition (i.e., arch, loop, and whorl).

**1.2.2** Understanding of pattern recognition and interpretation associated with operational needs of the individual agency.

**1.2.3** Understanding of friction ridge formations as they relate to recognition, interpretation and individualization.

**1.3** Friction Ridge Examination (Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation and Verification)

**1.3.1** Understanding of the individual friction ridge structure (i.e., continuity, texture, pore, and edge definition) for determining the existence of individualizing details.

**1.3.2** Ability to analyze friction ridge details to determine the value for comparison.

**1.3.3** Ability to recognize and utilize friction ridge flow, scars, creases, and other friction ridge details for supporting the examination.

**1.3.4** Ability to recognize and properly determine, when possible, the area from which the friction ridges originated.

**1.3.5** Knowledge to properly analyze friction ridge impressions and understand effects such as color reversal, pressure distortion, slippage, and overlays.

**1.3.6** Ability to render a proper conclusion.

**1.3.7** Understanding of the necessity for verification by another competent latent print examiner.

**1.3.8** Understanding of the role of quality assurance measures in friction ridge examination.

**1.3.9** Knowledge of various methods used to record known friction ridge impressions and the ability to properly evaluate ridge structure based on each method.

**1.3.10** Knowledge of the benefits associated with obtaining elimination prints and complete friction ridge exemplars.

**1.3.11** Ability to recognize simultaneous or adjacent friction ridge impressions and their value for examination.

**1.3.12** Awareness that different policies and standards exist regarding friction ridge individualization (identification) in the United States and other countries.

**1.4** Friction Ridge Detection and Preservation

**1.4.1** Knowledge of the generally accepted techniques for the detection and visualization of friction ridge impressions.

**1.4.2** Ability to assess the effectiveness/results of applied techniques.

**1.4.3** Understanding of generally accepted preservation methods for friction ridge impressions.

**1.5** Documentation of Examination

Understanding of the level of documentation required for the following:

**1.5.1** Case records.

**1.5.2** Chain of custody of the evidence.

**1.5.3** Latent print processing.

**1.5.4** The examination process.

**1.5.5** Evidence marking.

**1.5.6** Report writing.

## **1.6** Communication

Ability to accurately explain case examinations and conclusions in written and oral form.

## **1.7** Legal Issues

**1.7.1** Understanding the role of expert witness testimony.

**1.7.2** Knowledge of factors regarding the admissibility of evidence.

**1.7.3** Knowledge of relevant court cases and case histories.

**1.7.4** Understanding the rules of discovery and evidence.

**1.7.5** Knowledge of applicable legal challenges to admissibility.

**1.7.6** Understanding critical challenges to principles of the discipline.

## **1.8** Demonstration of Competency

Ability to practically demonstrate all phases of training.

## **1.9** Professional Development

**1.9.1** Participate in continuing education.

**1.9.2** Awareness of relevant professional organizations and publications.

**1.9.3** Adherence to code(s) of professional conduct.

## **2** Supplemental Objectives

### **2.1** Principles and Foundations

**2.1.1** Understanding of early methods of personal identification, such as scars, marks, and tattoos.

**2.1.2** Understanding of personal identification methods other than friction ridge skin, e.g., iris scan, hand geometry, flexion creases.

**2.1.3** Understanding of the applications of friction ridge impressions for manual and/or automated repositories for 'single print' and 'unidentified latent prints'.

### **2.2** Friction Ridge Pattern Recognition and Interpretation

Understanding of various classification systems (definitions and formulas).

## **2.3 Professional Development**

**2.3.1** Participation in educational opportunities (e.g., seminars, conferences, schools and lectures).

**2.3.2** Membership in relevant professional organizations.