



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE
A Nationally Accredited Laboratory

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NOTICE OF POLICY CHANGE

To: ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL
From: Paul B. Ferrara, Ph.D., Director of the Division of Forensic Science
Date: May 14, 2002

CERTAIN REQUESTS FOR DNA ANALYSIS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT WRITTEN REQUEST FOR TESTING FROM THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

Pursuant to discussions with the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys and Members of the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council, effective immediately, no request for DNA analysis shall be accepted or performed in the following types of cases unless there is a specific written request from the Commonwealth's Attorney for such analysis:

- Misdemeanor offenses (except any sex-related offense)
- Simple possession of controlled substances (i.e., cocaine, heroin)

Any questions about whether an offense falls under this policy should be directed to Katya Newton, Counsel for the Division, at (804) 786-2281.