

Photographing Latent Prints

Latent prints should be photographed with a 35mm SLR camera or a high resolution (10 mega pixel or greater) digital SLR camera. Cameras must have close-up photography capabilities. Recommended film speed for 35mm is 100 ISO or slower. For digital images, use the largest file format available. Digital images should be captured in .tiff or RAW file format.

The camera should be mounted on a tripod, perpendicular (at a right angle) to the latent print so that the film plane and the print are parallel. The latent print should fill the frame to ensure it is captured at a minimum of 1000 ppi. The latent print should be first photographed without a scale, then with a scale. Any additional photographs of the latent print can be taken with a scale. The scale is important to allow for 1:1 (actual) size reproduction for comparison purposes. The scale should include the case number and the photographer's initials.

Photographs submitted to the laboratory for examination should be accompanied by the film negatives or a CD containing the image files in .tiff or RAW format. The original capture media (film negative, digital file) is needed in the event the laboratory must reprint the image so that a 1:1 comparison photo can be made.