



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
A Nationally Accredited Laboratory

NOTICE OF DFS POLICY CHANGE

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To: All Agencies Serviced by Department of Forensic Science Laboratories
From: Linda C. Jackson, Director *Linda C Jackson*
Date: November 5, 2014
RE: Reduction of Trace Evidence Services

Effective immediately, the Department of Forensic Science (DFS) will restrict the evidence received for Trace Evidence examinations as described below. Further, DFS will discontinue performing these services on previously submitted evidence on December 1, 2014. This may result in previously submitted evidence being returned to you that has not yet been analyzed.

- ~~**Explosives**~~ -- DFS will discontinue providing analysis on Improvised Explosive Devices (I.E.D.s), low explosives, high explosives, etc. **Superseded by June 10, 2016 policy notice.**
- ~~**Primer Residue**~~ -- Primer Residue examinations will be limited to kits collected from suspects in cases that include a gunshot victim. This policy supersedes the primer residue policy dated September 24, 2009. **Superseded by June 10, 2016 policy notice.**
- **Hairs/Fibers** – DFS will continue to perform these examinations, however, will no longer accept evidence which requires extensive searching for hairs and/or fibers (e.g. vacuum cleaner bags, bedding, large carpets, etc). The submitting agency will be required to consult with the laboratory **prior** to submission of any hair/fiber evidence. Contact: Josh Kruger (804) 588-4009 or Robyn Weimer (804) 588-4049.
- **General Chemical** - The breadth of General Chemical examinations performed will be restricted. DFS will continue to routinely accept the following types of evidence: clandestine laboratory precursors, bank dye, pepper spray, tear gas, tapes, adhesives, salt (deer bait) and acids/bases. The submitting agency will be required to consult with the laboratory **prior** to submission of General Chemical evidence not specifically listed above. DFS will not routinely perform examinations on cosmetics, complete unknown liquids or pastes, or in product tampering cases.

These changes are necessary to best manage DFS's staffing and resources. The following Trace Evidence analytical capabilities remain unaffected: physical and chemical reaction devices (bottle bombs), glass, ignitable liquids (fire debris), paints and polymers, fracture matches/physical fits, and vehicle lamp filaments.

For questions regarding this change in policy, please contact Director of Technical Services, Alka Lohmann at 804-786-2281.