GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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D. Victor Reynolds
Director

GBI CRIME LAB
OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2021-02
Outsourcing of Drug Cases
July 19, 2021

The GBI Crime Laboratory is committed to providing quality and timely forensic services to the criminal justice system in Georgia. Due to the volume of backlogged requests for drug analysis, the Crime Laboratory will continue to use grant and state funding to outsource the analysis of drug cases to a qualified accredited laboratory similarly as described in Operations Bulletin 2019-02. The grant funding portion was made available through the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program to address challenges the opioid abuse crisis has brought to the forensic science community. In addition to the grant funding, additional state funds were allocated for outsourcing of drug cases to assist the Crime Laboratory in meeting the needs of our customers.

The reports generated by the outsource vendor will be posted on our secure report website under the applicable DOFS case number. We will work with our district attorneys as needed on outsourced cases that require testimony by reanalyzing any items in a case prior to trial and providing testimony. When testimony is needed, please contact the Chemistry Section Manager at mgr.chem@gbi.ga.gov to subpoena GBI lab personnel. If the district attorney's office chooses to have the subcontracted laboratory personnel testify, the office should communicate directly with the subcontracted laboratory. The district attorney's office will be fiscally responsible for any incurred fees.

Those agencies that wish to retract approval for their cases to be outsourced should contact me at Cleveland.miles@gbi.ga.gov or at 404-270-8082. A lack of response will be taken as continued approval to outsource. We appreciate your support as we continue to address the drug case backlog.

Cleveland L. Miles
Deputy Director
GBI Division of Forensic Sciences