



GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Milton E. Nix, Jr.
Director

OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2000-01 FEBRUARY 2000

Effective February 2000, all of Division of Forensic Sciences laboratories are fully staffed for Drug Identification and Toxicology/Blood Alcohol services. The additional staff authorized for these two disciplines has been trained and is now in the process of reducing the backlog of pending cases. It is anticipated that the backlog should be reduced to the "less than 30 day old cases" by the end of the year. In order to reduce any further time delays in receiving Official Reports, please send drug and biological evidence for these two services directly to the laboratory servicing your area. DOFS has greatly appreciated your understanding, patience and cooperation during the past year.

For faster service on priority cases involving firearms and trace analysis, please deliver evidence directly to the Headquarters Laboratory in Decatur. DNA analysis is now offered in the Coastal Regional Crime Laboratory in Savannah in addition to the Headquarters Laboratory.

Effective March 2000, the laboratory will require the use of new submission forms recently designed. These new forms are designed to speed the data entry process in the laboratory in association with the new LIMS computer system and for officer "chain of evidence" documentation. For those officers who submit evidence in person to our laboratories, there will now be a date stamp machine to record the date that evidence was brought into the laboratory. This mechanism has been instituted in response to your requests. The new submission forms are being mailed to all law enforcement agencies in Georgia during the month of February and may also be obtained by contacting any DOFS laboratory.

The laboratory has been operating under a new computer system for several months. As a result, your office may have noticed a change in the design and makeup of the DOFS Official Report. This computer system is still undergoing refinements and will not be fully implemented until early Fall, 2000. The Official Reports will continue to be mailed until early Fall, 2000 and at that time will also be available to you through electronic media. The laboratory, in cooperation with the GaNet Authority, is developing a secure Internet website that will allow you to access data on your cases, including both completed Official Reports, and checking the current status of the case as it moves through the laboratory analysis process. We will be contacting each of you this Summer with directions on how to access this system.

An updated *Division of Forensic Sciences Laboratory Services and Requirements for Submitting Evidence* booklet is now available. It is also available on the GBI website at www.ganet.org/gbi.

As the Division of Forensic Sciences laboratory system continues to improve its services and operations, your agency can expect to receive the best forensic services available anywhere in the country. Please address any questions or problems that you may have with any DOFS Manager or contact Terry Mills, Deputy Director at 404-244-2787.

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