



GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

3121 Panthersville Road
P.O. Box 370808
Decatur, Georgia 30037-0808

Vernon M. Keenan
Director

OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2015-02 March 4, 2015 DNA Analysis Update

This bulletin is intended to inform criminal justice agencies of current operational practices related to DNA analysis at the GBI Crime Laboratory. The information in this bulletin supersedes previously issued DNA operational bulletins.

- The GBI Crime Lab accepts and will perform DNA analysis on sexual assault evidence collection kits, regardless of whether or not a suspect has been identified in the investigation. By submitting the kits to the Laboratory as investigations are initiated, the Laboratory can enter DNA profile information obtained from the kit into CODIS. These profiles are routinely searched within CODIS to determine if the donor of the DNA profile is in the system or if other cases can be linked. If your agency has sexual assault evidence collection kits that have not been submitted to the Laboratory, please contact the Laboratory for further guidance.
- Touch or contact DNA will routinely be performed on violent crimes (sexual assaults, homicides, armed robbery, etc.) and some burglaries (serial situation or extreme high dollar or value amount in theft) without prior approval from the Laboratory. In all other cases, Laboratory staff will evaluate the samples submitted and the case background to determine whether DNA analysis is the appropriate testing method or if alternative approaches such as latent prints or trace evidence may be more suitable.
- Agencies are requested to review GBI Crime Lab reports as soon as possible after they are released to the submitting agency. In many cases, the Laboratory report includes a request for known samples from victims, subjects, or other individuals whose DNA may be found on the evidence; for example, a spouse. **All samples should be submitted to the Laboratory at least 30 days prior to a scheduled court date.** Known samples from victims, subjects and other potential donors are required by the Laboratory in order to complete a thorough analysis which can be presented in court. Overall laboratory efficiency and productivity are negatively impacted when the Laboratory does not have **30 days** to complete the DNA analysis. In addition, some types of samples take longer to analyze, making a quick turnaround time difficult to achieve.

The GBI Crime Laboratory is committed to providing the highest quality forensic analyses in support of criminal justice efforts in Georgia. If there are any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact me at george.herrin@gbi.ga.gov or at 404-270-8082.

Respectfully,

George Herrin, Jr., Ph.D.
Deputy Director
GBI Division of Forensic Sciences