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Due to revenue shortfalls, state agency budgets throughout Georgia have been cut. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Division of Forensic Sciences (DOFS) has not been exempt from these cuts. Funding levels have not allowed the filling of vacant staff positions. It is, therefore, necessary for the DOFS to take steps to maximize the resources we have in order to best serve our customers. Beginning this date, the following operational change will take effect:

DOFS will no longer perform analysis of marijuana in cases when both of the following conditions are met:

- a. Controlled substances (Schedule I-IV) were submitted on the same agency case number; and
- b. The weight of the marijuana is less than 10 pounds.

Agencies are encouraged to utilize officers who have successfully completed the Marijuana Identification Program offered by GPSTC to identify and testify regarding samples of marijuana less than 10 pounds in cases that meet the above criteria.

The DOFS will make every effort to meet the needs of the criminal justice community. These operational changes are designed to maximize resources and to increase laboratory productivity. Should you require service that is not offered on a routine basis please contact the DOFS and we will make every effort to meet your needs. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Dan Kirk, GBI Deputy Director Division of Forensic Sciences