



GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Director

OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2013-03 May 31, 2013 Elimination of Handwriting Analysis

In January 2013 one of the two remaining GBI Crime Lab scientists capable of performing handwriting analysis resigned to take a position in another forensic laboratory. Our laboratory quality standards require that each case file and report be reviewed by another scientist trained in the type of analysis being reported. Unfortunately the GBI Crime Lab no longer has adequate staffing in the area of handwriting analysis to comply with this quality requirement. Therefore, handwriting analysis will be permanently eliminated as a service provided by the GBI Crime Lab. The elimination of the service is based upon the following factors:

- The length of time and cost of training associated with handwriting analysis as compared to the relatively low number of cases where the analysis is requested; and
- The availability of private vendors in Georgia that offer this service. A list of private experts in Georgia can be found on the American Society of Questioned Document Examiner website, <http://www.asqde.org/experts/experts.html> or the Southeastern Association of Forensic Document Examiners website, http://www.safde.org/Private_Examiners.htm. The GBI Crime Lab is unable to endorse or certify any results or services obtained from these private entities.

It should be noted that many state and local crime laboratories throughout the United States have already discontinued providing handwriting analysis to their criminal justice customers.

The GBI Crime Lab will begin returning all evidence submitted for handwriting analysis to the submitting agency in July 2013. The associated request for analysis will be canceled effective July 1, 2013 and no report will be issued by the laboratory. This Operations Bulletin serves as official notice that all open handwriting analysis requests at the GBI Crime Lab will be canceled.

The GBI Crime Lab is committed to providing high quality, timely, and accurate forensic analysis services to the criminal justice community in Georgia. While eliminating handwriting analysis from the laboratory was not an easy decision, it is the best decision to ensure our available resources are targeted in the most appropriate manner to address the largest number and most critical types of analysis for criminal justice in Georgia. If there are any questions please contact me at 404-270-8082 or via email at george.herrin@gbi.ga.gov.

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