



GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2006-01 HAIR EXAMINATION SERVICE JULY 10, 2006

Vernon M. Keenan
Director

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and their partner laboratories provide mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) services at no charge to the law enforcement community across the country. This service has the potential to provide useful information regarding the origin of unknown hair samples where nuclear DNA (nDNA) was unsuccessful. The FBI requires that a microscopical hair comparison be completed prior to a request for mtDNA analysis. In order for Georgia law enforcement agencies to take advantage of this valuable service, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Division of Forensic Sciences, will begin performing microscopical hair examinations.

Microscopical comparison of questioned hair to known hair from suspected donors will be performed by the Trace Evidence Section. Those hairs that match microscopically and are suitable will have nDNA testing performed by the Forensic Biology Section. Those questioned hairs that are not suitable for nDNA testing, or that do not yield a nDNA profile will be sent to one of the four FBI partner laboratories for mtDNA testing.

The following criteria will be utilized to determine whether or not hair evidence will be accepted for analysis:

1. The Trace Evidence Section will analyze hair evidence only if other potential sources of DNA have been exhausted (e.g. blood, semen and saliva).
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2. The Trace Evidence Section will analyze hair evidence only if it addresses a critical aspect of the case not addressed by the other sources of DNA (e.g. blood, semen or saliva).

This change in procedure will require the submission of appropriate known hair samples from the victim and/or subjects prior to DNA services being performed. Please refer to the DOFS handbook (Laboratory Services and Requirements for the Submission of Evidence) for the proper retrieval and submission of hair evidence. This manual is located at <http://www.ganet.org/gbi/labmanual.html>.

If you have any questions about the current requirements for the hair examination service, please contact the GBI Headquarters Trace Evidence Section at 404-270-8266.

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