



GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Vernon M. Keenan
Director

GBI CRIME LAB OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2012-02 SUSPENSION OF HANDWRITING COMPARISON SERVICE May 31, 2012

Effective immediately, Handwriting Comparison analysis at the GBI Crime Lab is suspended. The suspension of Handwriting Comparison analysis is required until the scientists responsible for performing this type of analysis can successfully meet requirements of our quality system. The results of the Handwriting Comparison proficiency test completed in 2011 by GBI Crime Lab scientists were not acceptable and do not meet the requirements of ASCLD/LAB, the accrediting body for the GBI Crime Lab. The laboratory is investigating options to address this situation so that this type of analysis can be reinstated as quickly as possible.

Until further notice, please do not submit evidence for handwriting analysis to any of our laboratory locations. We will retain any evidence previously submitted until the analysis can be completed.

I apologize for any inconvenience this situation may cause with ongoing cases, but the quality and reliability of the analyses conducted by the GBI Crime Lab must be the first priority. Handwriting Comparison analysis will resume when I can provide assurance that this matter has been resolved so that there is no question handwriting comparisons conducted by GBI Crime Lab personnel meet expected standards.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 404-270-8082 (office) or via email at george.herrin@gbi.ga.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Herrin, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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