



GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

Vernon M. Keenan
Director

GBI CRIME LAB OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2009-01 INFORMATIONAL NOTICES

May 15, 2009

Laboratory Status:

In response to the state's economic situation, the GBI proposed the closure of the regional laboratories located in Moultrie, Columbus and Summerville. **These closures will NOT take place.** Acknowledging the critical service that our regional facilities provide to the local law enforcement community, the Legislature approved 9 months of funding for these facilities in the GBI FY2010 budget. These three laboratories will continue to provide the scientific services currently offered at each location. Moultrie and Summerville each provide analysis for DUI-Toxicology, Blood Alcohol and Drug Identification. Columbus provides Drug Identification, Firearms, and Fire Debris analysis. Agencies can continue to deliver evidence to any GBI Crime Lab facility. Where necessary, the evidence will be forwarded to the laboratory where the analysis will be performed. The GBI Crime Lab remains committed to providing the criminal justice system all possible support and assistance.

Forensic Services Updates:

Because of a limited number of trained personnel and the volume of requested analyses in the areas of Latent Prints, Trace Evidence, and Firearms, the GBI Crime Lab will be implementing a new process to help prioritize services in these areas effective **July 1, 2009**. Incomplete requests for analysis that are more than one year old will be deactivated and placed into a pending status. The submitting agency and prosecuting agency will be notified of this change in status via the GBI Crime Lab Report website, email, and/or letter. The analysis request will remain in the pending status for 6 months to allow agencies time to review the case to determine if analysis is still needed. If the analysis is still required, then either the submitting agency or the prosecuting agency should utilize the GBI Crime Lab Report website to reactivate the analysis request. Evidence will remain in GBI custody during the 6 month review period. Evidence associated with analysis requests that have not been reactivated after 6 months at pending status will be returned to the submitting agency and the service request will be canceled. If the service becomes necessary at a later time, the evidence may be resubmitted to the laboratory.

As Crime Lab Director, I regret having to implement this process, but I must take appropriate steps to manage the workflow in the laboratory to ensure that critical service requests are completed. All active analysis requests in these areas will continue to be prioritized to meet court testimony requirements and provide critical investigative information, especially in cases involving death or serious bodily injury.

If there are any questions or concerns about either of the issues covered in this bulletin please contact me at 404-270-8072 or george.herrin@gbi.ga.gov.

Deputy Director
GBI Division of Forensic Sciences

Division of Forensic Sciences
P.O. Box 370808
Decatur, Georgia 30037-0808

Investigative Division
P.O. Box 370808
Decatur, Georgia 30037-0808

Georgia Crime Information Center
P.O. Box 370748
Decatur, Georgia 30037-0748