



## **8000 CRIME LABORATORY**

### **8010 GENERAL**

#### **8011 Services**

The Crime Laboratory provides forensic services in eight functional areas:

- Firearms
- Forensic Biology (DNA)
- Latent Print Processing
- Latent Print Comparison
- Forensic Electronic Media
- Fire Debris
- Seized Drugs
- Toxicology (Blood Alcohol)

The Latent Print Comparison Unit utilizes state and national fingerprint databases, and the Forensic Biology Unit utilizes the national Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database.

The Crime Laboratory Superintendent manages the laboratory and reports to the Forensic Division Administrator.

#### **8012 Function**

The Crime Laboratory provides forensic laboratory services, including scientific examination and analysis of evidence, expert witness testimony, and training in evidence collection and forensic analysis to members of the law enforcement community.

#### **8013 Intergovernmental Agreements**

The Crime Laboratory may have Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with area law enforcement agencies to provide forensic laboratory services.

#### **8014 Certifications and Accreditation**

The Crime Laboratory is nationally accredited by the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) Forensic Testing: ISO/IEC 17025:2017/AR 3125:2019. The laboratory's activities are audited internally and assessed externally on an annual basis, with a comprehensive external assessment occurring every four years.

Relevant state and federal licenses and certificates are kept on the premises and available for inspection.



**8015 Quality Control**

The Crime Laboratory maintains a system of quality control for its activities, as detailed in its manuals and standard operating procedures, which are housed in the laboratory's document management system.

**8016 Security**

The Crime Laboratory maintains a system of secure, controlled access to its testing facilities. Only authorized personnel are allowed access to restricted areas of the laboratory where examination and analysis of evidence is performed. All other persons must be escorted when visiting restricted areas of the laboratory.

**8020 CRIME LABORATORY UTILIZATION**

**8021 Requests for Scientific Analysis**

Requests for forensic services should be submitted to the Crime Laboratory by investigators through the Property Connect portal accessed via the department's intranet/wiki.

When submitting evidentiary items for forensic examination, it is important to select, for each item, all requested types of forensic examination and analysis. This helps ensure proper triaging and preservation of evidence. It is also important that any special circumstances or deadlines, such as disclosure deadlines or trial dates, be communicated to the laboratory via Property Connect or by email to the appropriate Crime Laboratory Unit Coordinator.

Investigators can make priority requests for forensic services with the approval of a commander. This procedure requires a commander to email the Crime Laboratory Superintendent and ask that the case receive expedited analysis.

If previously requested forensic services are no longer needed, investigators should notify the laboratory by email to [CrimeLabMailbox@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:CrimeLabMailbox@tucsonaz.gov).

**8022 Types of Analysis Performed**

The Crime Laboratory routinely performs the following types of scientific analysis, as well as writing reports, presenting findings and conclusions, and providing expert witness testimony.

However, investigators are not restricted to the items below, as the Crime Laboratory may be able to perform or obtain other types of scientific analysis. Investigators are encouraged to discuss the needs of their investigations with the Crime Laboratory, which can advise on outsourcing evidence to other accredited laboratories for forensic services that it does not provide in-house.

**8022.1 Blood Alcohol:** Blood samples are analyzed for alcohol content.

**8022.2 Breath Alcohol:** The Toxicology Unit maintains breath testing devices and supports the breath testing program.



- 8022.3 **Digital Evidence:** Computers, cell phones, digital cameras, and other electronic devices are examined. Video and other electronic recordings are also examined.
- 8022.4 **Controlled Substances:** Substances are examined to determine whether they are a dangerous drug or narcotic, and their specific chemical composition.
- 8022.5 **DNA:** Evidence from crime scenes is examined for the presence of biological fluids and cells containing DNA. Those DNA profiles are compared to DNA profiles from known subjects in local, state, and national databases, to identify individuals and to connect local cases with cases in other jurisdictions.
- 8022.6 **Ignitable Liquids:** Fire debris is examined for the presence of gasoline or other ignitable liquids.
- 8022.7 **Firearms:** Firearms are examined to determine their functionality/operability and any altered serial numbers are restored. Cartridge cases and bullets are examined to determine their caliber, a list of weapons they could have been fired from, whether they were fired from a particular firearm, and the muzzle-to-target distance.
- 8022.8 **Latent Prints:** Latent prints, including fingerprints and palm prints, are developed and compared to prints from known subjects.
- 8022.9 **Tools and Tool Marks:** Suspect tools are compared with tool marks at crime scenes.

8023 **Documentation of Results**

Results of requested analysis will be documented in a *Crime Laboratory Report*. The original of the *Crime Laboratory Report* (excluding requests by the Office of Professional Standards or external agencies) is automatically sent to the Records Section and/or the department's Records Management System. A copy of the report may be released to authorized department personnel or the requesting prosecutor's office.