

Deadline of Submission of Comments: 13-May-24
Document Number: ANSI/ASB BPR 007, 2nd Edition
Document Title: Postmortem Impression Submission Strategy for Comprehensive Searches of Essential Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Databases

Comment #	Text Line # (s)	Document Section	Type of Comment	Current Document Wording	Proposed Revision	Revision Justification	Final Resolution
			E-Editorial T-Technical				
1	4	1	E	This standard provides the proper pathways, image requirements, and resources for searching the totality of available antemortem fingerprint databases.	This standard provides the proper pathways, image requirements, and resources for searching the totality of available antemortem fingerprint databases when attempting to identify an unknown person.		Accept
2	44	3.6	E	there is an errant "D" at the end of the sentence			Accept
3	73	4.2	E	"Before examining the remains, fingerprint examiners should familiarize themselves about the incident..."	"Before examining the remains, fingerprint examiners should familiarize themselves with the incident..."	Grammatical error	Accept
4	73-86	4.2	T	"Before examining the remains, fingerprint examiners should familiarize themselves about the incident to help understand the condition of the prints being submitted...Geographic location and circumstances surrounding the recovery of the remains...Circumstances surrounding the death...Details regarding any identifyn documents or personal effects...Investigators should also attempt to locate AM records elsewhere, such as decedent's residence, place of employment, etc."	Ideally, these pieces of information would not be available to the primary analyst as they could influence their examination and interpretation of the fingerprints. This information could be reviewed either later, after they have made an initial conclusion about the fingerprints, or by a different analyst who obtains impressions from the deceased individual. If that isn't possible, the primary analyst should explicitly consider the alternative hypothesis (that any of these pieces of information may point towards an inaccurate conclusion) and explain the evidence that suggests this is significantly less feasible/possible and, thus, not worth pursuing as a legitimate conclusion.	These suggestions are in line with information management protocols (see https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsivn.2022.100216 and https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsivn.2021.100161), which are protocols designed to mitigate the effect of potentially biasing information on forensic analyst's decisions.	Reject. The use of the details of the incident are imperative to the accuracy of the algorithms used for automated friction ridge searches. Postmortem changes that occur perimortem or postmortem may affect the calibration and distortion of a print that can only be explained by knowing the circumstances of the event and the recovery. There is no intrinsic bias from using this information, and the use of the information may be the only reason the identification is effected. BPR 094 addresses the basis for understanding the post-mortem changes and noting that information at the time of collection.
5	96	4.3	E	post script "a" is a much smaller font that the post script used in line 118 "B"			Accept. ASB Staff will review formatting prior to publication.
6	96	4.3.2.2	T	Trained fingerprint examiners a should be utilized for the recovery of examination quality PM impressions	Consider changing to "Trained crime scene responders or fingerprint examiners should be utilized"		Reject. Adding "trained crime scene responders" is not applicable for the intent of the statement and the quality assurance process.
7	117-118	4.4.5	T	4.4.5 Any possible known demographic information regarding the decedent or fingerprint recording anomalies shall be included in the additional information section of the template.	Similar comment to above - This information could potentially bias the analysts decision. So, ideally, these pieces of information would not be available to the primary analyst as they could influence their examination and interpretation of the fingerprints. This information could be reviewed either later, after they have made an initial conclusion about the fingerprints, or by a different analyst who obtains impressions from the deceased individual. If that isn't possible, the primary analyst should explicitly consider the alternative hypothesis (that any of these pieces of information may point towards an inaccurate conclusion) and explain the evidence that suggests this is significantly less feasible/possible and, thus, not worth pursuing as a legitimate conclusion.	These suggestions are in line with information management protocols (see https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsivn.2022.100216 and https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsivn.2021.100161), which are protocols designed to mitigate the effect of potentially biasing information on forensic analyst's decisions.	Reject. The use of friction ridge skin for identification has multiple quality assurance processes in place such as verification and blind verification in place to mitigate the influence of bias. There are millions of antemortem print records only retrievable through a name and DOB search, and precluding their use would effectively halt identification of the deceased. This is the accepted and best practices for both daily cases and for DVI incidents to use tentative information to locate records. When quality assurance is properly used, the use of the tentative information does not bias the examiner, who would be able to effect an exclusion just as easy as an identification.