

ANSI/ASB Standard 145, First Edition
2023

**Standard for Consultation during Friction Ridge
Examination**



ASB
ACADEMY
STANDARDS BOARD



Standard for Consultation during Friction Ridge Examination

ASB Approved January 2023

ANSI Approved July 2023



410 North 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

This document may be downloaded from: www.aafs.org/academy-standards-board

This document is provided by the AAFS Academy Standards Board. Users are permitted to print and download the document and extracts from the document for personal use, however the following actions are prohibited under copyright:

- *modifying this document or its related graphics in any way;*
- *using any illustrations or any graphics separately from any accompanying text; and,*
- *failing to include an acknowledgment alongside the copied material noting the AAFS Academy Standards Board as the copyright holder and publisher.*

Users may not reproduce, duplicate, copy, sell, resell, or exploit for any commercial purposes this document or any portion of it. Users may create a hyperlink to www.aafs.org/academy-standards-board to allow persons to download their individual free copy of this document. The hyperlink must not portray AAFS, the AAFS Standards Board, this document, our agents, associates and affiliates in an offensive manner, or be misleading or false. ASB trademarks may not be used as part of a link without written permission from ASB.

The AAFS Standards Board retains the sole right to submit this document to any other forum for any purpose.

Certain commercial entities, equipment or materials may be identified in this document to describe a procedure or concept adequately. Such identification is not intended to imply recommendations or endorsement by the AAFS or the AAFS Standards Board, nor is it intended to imply that the entities, materials, or equipment are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

Proper citation of ASB documents includes the designation, title, edition, and year of publication.

*This document is copyrighted © by the AAFS Standards Board, LLC. 2023 All rights are reserved.
410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904, www.aafs.org/academy-standards-board.*

Foreword

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences established the Academy Standards Board (ASB) in 2015 with a vision of safeguarding Justice, Integrity and Fairness through Consensus Based American National Standards. To that end, the ASB develops consensus based forensic standards within a framework accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and provides training to support those standards. ASB values integrity, scientific rigor, openness, due process, collaboration, excellence, diversity and inclusion. ASB is dedicated to developing and making freely accessible the highest quality documentary forensic science consensus Standards, Guidelines, Best Practices, and Technical Reports in a wide range of forensic science disciplines as a service to forensic practitioners and the legal system.

This document was revised, prepared, and finalized as a standard by the Friction Ridge Consensus Body of the AAFS Standards Board. The draft of this standard was developed by the Friction Ridge Subcommittee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science.

Questions, comments, and suggestions for the improvement of this document can be sent to AAFS-ASB Secretariat, asb@aafs.org or 401 N 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

All hyperlinks and web addresses shown in this document are current as of the publication date of this standard.

ASB procedures are publicly available, free of cost, at <https://www.aafs.org/academy-standards-board>.

Keywords: *friction ridge examination, friction ridge comparison, consultation, friction ridge documentation*

Table of Contents

1 Scope.....1

2 Normative References1

3 Terms and Definitions1

4 Requirements2

Standard for Consultation during Friction Ridge Examination

1 Scope

This standard sets documentation, quality, and consultant requirements for consultations during friction ridge examinations.

This document does not apply to conflict resolution.

2 Normative References

There are no normative reference documents.

3 Terms and Definitions

For purposes of this document, the following definitions apply.

3.1

case record

A type of file (electronic or hard copy) in which all documentation and case relevant information is kept and maintained.

3.2

complexity (of a comparison)

A characteristic of a comparison in which the attributes of one or both impressions may require additional consideration and quality assurance measures relating to the evaluation of a source conclusion.

3.3

complexity (of an impression)

A characteristic of an impression whose attributes may require additional consideration and quality assurance measures.

3.4

consultation

A discussion or interaction initiated by an examiner seeking guidance for the purpose of interpreting an image or comparison.

3.5

examiner (friction ridge)

An individual authorized to conduct independent friction ridge examinations for the forensic service provider by observing and interpreting data, making decisions, forming conclusions and opinions, issuing reports and/or providing testimony. Use of the term "*examiner*" in these documents refers to a "*competent* friction ridge examiner" and not a "*trainee*."

3.6

Forensic Service Provider

FSP

Organization or individual that conducts and/or supplies forensic services.

4 Requirements

4.1 A consultation shall occur only after the examiner has recorded their preliminary observations in the case record. To avoid any potential bias from the examiner, these observations shall not be provided to the consultant until after the consultant has completed their observations.

NOTE Preliminary observations refers to the data being observed not to the conclusions being considered. For example, when considering suitability, preliminary observations include minutia markings and indication of possible anatomical orientation.

4.2 A consultant who has viewed both known and unknown friction ridge impressions shall not be used as the verifier for that examination.

4.3 Consultation consists of varying levels of discussion between examiners. Not all discussions rise to the level of a consultation that requires documentation. At a minimum, the consultation shall be documented when the interaction concerns one or more of the following:

- a) assessment of the utility of the friction ridge impression for comparison value;
- b) assessment of the utility of a friction ridge impression for an automated search;
- c) presence or absence of specific observed data during the analysis or comparison;
- d) simultaneity of impressions;
- e) when there is high complexity, per FSP policy, in an examination;
- f) specific observed data used for comparison and/or searching efficiency such as target groups, anchor points or others; and
- g) comparison conclusion(s).

4.4 If there is doubt whether an interaction has risen to the level requiring documentation, it should be documented. Documentation of in-depth interactions involving the following should be considered:

- a) assessment of orientation or anatomical position (region of interest);
- b) friction ridge distortion resulting from deposition pressure, substrate, and matrix;
- c) automated search parameter selection such as search orientation, pattern type, and demographic filtering;
- d) limitations in image quality such as contrast, focus, camera angle/position, noise, image artifacts; and
- e) latent print detection and development technique(s) utilized.

4.5 Documentation of the consultations shall be maintained in the case record (including any additional set of notes, annotations, or images generated by the consultant).

4.6 The documentation for a consultation shall include the following:

- a) specific friction ridge impression(s) reviewed;
- b) the topic and result of the consultation;
- c) personal identifiers for the examiners involved; and
- d) date(s) of the consultation.

4.7 In consultations where there is (per FSP policy) high complexity, the consultant shall generate an additional set of notes, annotations, and/or images (e.g., screenshots, markups).



Academy Standards Board
410 North 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

www.aafs.org/academy-standards-board