

ASB Standard 198, First Edition  
2025

**Standard for the Technical Review of Bloodstain Pattern  
Analysis Reporting**



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## Standard for the Technical Review of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Reporting

ASB Approved Xxxxxx 2025

ANSI Approved Xxxxxxx 2025



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## Foreword

In addition to an administrative review, all bloodstain pattern analysis reports are required to undergo a technical review prior to release. The technical review is designed to ensure the correct application of the methodology and the appropriateness of the reported information. This review offers an opportunity to ensure there is appropriate and sufficient support for the actions, results, opinions, and interpretations which may have occurred during the analysis or in the generation of the report. In addition, the technical review provides a means of reassurance and confidence to its stakeholders that quality measures have been followed.

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 Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Consensus Body of the AAFS Standards Board. The draft of this standard was developed by the Bloodstain Pattern Analysis 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](mailto:asb@aafs.org) or 410 N 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

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**Keywords:** *Bloodstain pattern analysis, technical review, reporting.*

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# Standard for the Technical Review of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Reporting

## 1 Scope

This document provides requirements for the reviewing of reports which contain results, interpretations, or opinions of anybody that is preparing a bloodstain pattern ~~analysts-analysis~~ report.

## 2 Normative References

For dated references, only the cited edition applies. For undated references, the latest edition including amendments applies.

ANSI/ASB Standard 031, *Standard for Report Writing in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis*. 1st Ed. 2020<sup>a</sup>.

ANSI/ASB Standard 032, *Standard for a Bloodstain Pattern Analyst's Training Program*, 1st Ed. 2020<sup>a</sup>.

## 3 Terms and Definitions

For purposes of this document, the following definitions apply.

### 3.1 administrative review

An evaluation of the report and supporting documentation for consistency with a forensic science service provider's policies, and for editorial correctness.

### 3.2 bloodstain pattern analyst

A qualified individual who conducts and/or directs the analysis of forensic casework samples, interprets data, reaches conclusions, and/or issues reports concerning conclusions in the field of bloodstain pattern analysis.

### 3.2.3.3

#### Forensic Science Service Provider FSSP

A forensic science agency or forensic science practitioner providing forensic ~~science~~ science services.

### 3.3.3.4

#### technical review

The evaluation of reports, notes, data, and other documentation to ensure there is appropriate and sufficient support for the actions, results, conclusions, opinions and interpretations, by a second bloodstain pattern analyst.

<sup>a</sup> Available from: [www.aafs.org/academy-standards-board](http://www.aafs.org/academy-standards-board)

## 4 General

4.1 Forensic Science Service Providers shall establish written policies and procedures for technical review of reports that are prepared in accordance with the ANSI/ASB Standard 031, *Standard for Report Writing in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis*.

4.2 The technical review shall be performed by a second bloodstain pattern analyst.

## 5 Technical Review Process

### 5.1 General

5.1.1 The technical ~~reviewer~~review shall be objective.

5.1.2 After ~~review of~~reviewing the ~~data and evidence~~supporting documentation the technical reviewer should be made aware of what questions the report author was asked to evaluate.

### 5.2 Evaluation and Supporting Documentation

5.2.1 The technical reviewer shall evaluate supporting documentation prior to reviewing the author's report.

5.2.2 Documentation of the items and evidence ~~reviewed~~provided for review shall be included in the case ~~folder. file. Deviations from this process shall be documented.~~

5.2.3 Supporting documentation to be provided to the technical reviewer should include, but is not limited to, the following.

- a) Photographic images.
- b) Autopsy and medical reports and images.
- c) Forensic biology reports.
- d) Crime scene diagrams.
- e) Analysis notes.
- f) Any other documents referenced in the report as used for achieving final interpretations and opinion.

### 5.3 Review of Analyst Report

5.3.1 The report shall cover all examinations, documentation, and observations supporting the analyst's opinions and conclusions.

5.3.2 Any amendments made to the report as a result of the technical review shall be documented and addressed by the reporting analyst.

5.4 Deviations from this process shall be documented.

## 6 Conflict Resolution

6.1 Attempts shall be made to resolve disagreement(s) that occur during the review process.

6.2 If a disagreement occurs regarding observations/classification of a bloodstain pattern, the ~~resolution shall be to report the classification that results in an(s) where there is~~ agreement shall be reported.

EXAMPLE A disagreement between the classification of a pattern as an expiration pattern vs. an impact pattern might result in the classification being reported as spatter stains.

EXAMPLE A disagreement between the classification of a pattern as an impact pattern vs. spatter stains might result in the classification being reported as spatter stains.

6.3 If a disagreement occurs over an interpretation or opinion, the resolution shall be to report the most specific case interpretation or opinion on which both the analyst and the reviewer agree.

EXAMPLE A disagreement in a case interpretation between whether a victim was kneeling or upright during an impact bloodshed event might result in the reporting of the height of the impact pattern alone with no further interpretation.

6.4 If the analyst and technical reviewer cannot agree, another qualified bloodstain pattern analyst shall be consulted to assist in resolving the disagreement. The consultation shall be documented in the case file.

6.5 Prior to the release of the report all disagreements between the analyst and the technical reviewer shall be resolved.

## 7 Documentation of the Technical Review

7.1 The technical review shall be documented and maintained in the case ~~record of the~~ analyst file.

7.2 The documentation in the case ~~record file~~ shall include, but is not limited to the following:

- a) Any changes made during the technical review process.
- b) any resolution of conflict;
- c) signature (or electronic equivalent) of the reviewer(s);
- d) date(s) of review;

~~7.3 Confirmation that a technical review has been completed shall be included in the reporting analyst's case file.~~



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