



## Questioned Documents Section – 2004

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### **J10 Removal of Opaquing Solutions From Documents**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand a technique on removal of opaquing solution from paper with the least amount of damage.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating a technique that is less detrimental to the evidence when removing opaquing solutions.

An item was submitted to the Indiana State Police Laboratory with the request to decipher what was written under an opaquing solution. Due to the thickness of the opaquing solution and a toner printing process on the reverse of the document the Document Examiner was unable to definitively decipher what was under the opaquing solution using non-destructive examinations. A request was received from the contributor giving permission for the Document Examiner to remove the opaquing solution. An experiment was conducted to determine the best technique in removing opaquing solutions with the least amount of damage to the document. Three methods for deciphering and/or removal were conducted on ten different opaquing solutions which covered writing written in five different inks. The best removal method for most opaquing solutions was found to be the use of a Xylene substitute followed by scraping with a scalpel.

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