



Questioned Documents Section – 2005

J2 Warning Statement on Plastic Bags: A Useful Characteristic During the Examination

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Attendees will learn how to use this class characteristic found on many plastic bags to streamline the examination and comparison process.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by providing forensic examiners with a class characteristic to streamline the examinations and comparisons of plastic bags.

In October 2002, a triple homicide and robbery occurred in Georgia. Early in the investigation, seven trash bags were recovered from a dumpster that contained personal property of the victims that was believed to have been taken during the commission of the crime. Shortly thereafter, a suspect was apprehended and during the search of his vehicle, a box of trash bags was located.

An examiner at the FBI Laboratory was requested to compare the bags from the dumpster to the box of bags recovered from the suspect's vehicle. During this examination, the examiner was able to streamline the examination and comparison by utilizing the cautionary statement stamped on the bags. In the past, this feature was only seen occasionally, but in this day and age, this class characteristic is becoming more and more prevalent.

Plastic Bag, Warning Statement, Class Characteristic