



D80 Digital Cameras as Evidence: Cautions and Tips

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the importance of referencing the user's manual as soon as possible when dealing with any digital camera. The importance of that step cannot be overemphasized and is the primary lesson each participant must understand. The attendee will also learn that the evidence may be time sensitive and should be treated as such. The main issue with regard to time sensitivity concerns a loss of power. A loss of power may mean a loss of evidence. The attendee will also be taught information about storage and media concerns when dealing with digital cameras as evidence. For example, several points will be covered with regard to internal memory. Practical advice for searches will also be given.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing information regarding digital cameras as evidence. If digital cameras are handled improperly, evidence can be lost. Therefore, it is important to understand certain issues such as power and storage. This presentation will help investigators learn the forensic aspects of dealing with digital cameras as evidence.

It is common for digital camera models to stay on the market between three and six months. With such a turnover rate and the large number of manufacturers, it is no wonder that there is such great variety in models and styles that are or have been available. It is also no wonder that law enforcement and forensic scientists are seeing increasing numbers of digital cameras as evidence. As with any piece of evidence, an investigator, law enforcement officer, or forensic scientist must know how to properly handle and treat that evidence. This lecture will discuss tips and cautions for working with digital cameras. Experiences and lessons learned from research for a digital camera database and from conducting examinations of digital cameras will be shared. The intended audience is anyone from first responders and evidence response teams to laboratory personnel.

Digital Camera, Recommendations, Search