

## Standard for Developing Standard Operating Procedures in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis



### WHAT IS AN AAFS STANDARD FACTSHEET?

The AAFS produces clear, concise, and easy-to-understand factsheets to summarize the contents of technical and professional forensic science standards on the OSAC Registry. They are not intended to provide an interpretation for any portion of a published standard.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STANDARD?

Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (BPA) is practiced by a variety of forensic science service providers (FSSPs). Those that are accredited will have an already established quality assurance program and standard operating procedures (SOPs). This standard may assist these FSSPs in the refinement of their BPA SOPs. For non-accredited FSSPs, this standard is intended to provide a framework for the establishment of SOPs.

This standard requires compliance with ANSI/ASB 031, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed., 2020 for report generation.

### WHY IS THIS STANDARD IMPORTANT? WHAT ARE ITS BENEFITS?

SOPs are an essential component of a quality assurance program, the framework put in place to provide confidence that the work product meets quality requirements.

Importantly, this standard, and the requirements for the development of SOPs, applies to BPA examinations performed at an FSSP facility, at a scene, or some other remote location.

Requirements related to the need to balance information between that required to perform the examination and the possibility of bias as well as the need to document factors and circumstances that could affect the BPA examination are included in this standard.

### HOW IS THIS STANDARD USED, AND WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

This standard is to be used by FSSPs performing BPA.

Requirements for the following aspects of an SOP are addressed in this standard:

- Scope
- Equipment, materials, reagents
- Case information retrieval and dissemination
- Pre-examination preparation and planning
- Data collection
- Data review and analysis
- Report generation, review, and approval
- Calculations
- Documenting limitations
- Safety
- References
- SOP approval and revision history

