

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation – Criminalistics Services Division
(OSBI CSD)
Service Limitations

The following summarizes types of cases which cannot or typically will not be routinely accepted for analysis or which will only be accepted once certain requirements are met.

Case Requests Not Accepted:

The following types of requests will not be accepted because the OSBI does not have the capability to perform these types of analyses:

1. Animal DNA analysis
2. Plant DNA analysis
3. No suspect DNA cases which do not meet eligibility requirements for CODIS (will be determined by Biologist at submittal)
4. Identification of synthetic or adulterated urine
5. Bite mark analysis (swabs of bite marks can be submitted for DNA)
6. DNA analysis for the purpose of crime scene reconstruction
7. Quantitation of controlled substances
8. Ejection pattern analysis of fired casings or shotshells
9. Function testing of BB/cap/air-soft guns, black powder/muzzleloader firearms
10. Chronography (speed of projectile) analysis
11. Muzzle-to-target distance determination on skin
12. Tire impression analysis
13. Explosive and incendiary devices (improvised explosive devices, bombs, fireworks, etc.)

Case Requests Typically Not Accepted:

The following case types will typically be deferred or will only be accepted under the circumstances described. In rare circumstances, exceptions to this policy may be needed. Unless otherwise noted, requests for exceptions must be submitted to and approved by a Criminalistics Administrator or the CSD Director, prior to submission. Requests for exceptions to the case acceptance policy made on behalf of another agency (e.g., a District Attorney's office, etc.) must be accompanied by a written request from that agency on their agency letter head.

Biology/DNA:

1. DNA analysis on controlled substance evidence
2. Felon in possession of a firearm cases
3. DNA analysis when the item is known to have been handled without gloves during or after collection
4. DNA analysis on airbags

Controlled Substances:

1. Syringes (including contents from syringes)

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2. Animal poisoning cases
3. Spores for drug analysis (mushrooms)
4. Used field test kits

Latent Evidence:

1. Requests for fingerprint confirmation of defendant identity (e.g., repeat of Interstate Identification Index)
2. Felon in possession of a firearm cases
3. Requests for latent print analyses on evidence for which the presence of fentanyl or a fentanyl-related compound has been confirmed
4. Items considered “found property”
5. Items collected/handled without gloves
6. Shell casings/live ammo submitted in non-violent cases (e.g., property crimes, arson, drug offenses)

All Disciplines – Re-Analysis of Evidence

In general, the OSBI CSD will not perform the same analysis on evidence that has been previously analyzed by the OSBI CSD or another forensic laboratory unless sufficient justification is received and the analysis is approved by the OSBI CSD Director (or designee). If re-analysis is approved, the OSBI CSD shall clearly document and include in the Criminalistics Examination Report any limitations of the re-analysis based on the previous analysis (i.e., changes in weights of Controlled Substances evidence or a different portion of the evidence used for testing). The intent of this policy is not to prohibit requestors from preliminary testing of evidence; however, requestors should be aware that some preliminary testing of small samples may preclude testing by the CSD due to insufficient sample remaining for analysis.

The OSBI CSD will perform additional or different analysis on an evidence item previously analyzed if the additional request could provide data that would supplement the existing information (new technology available). This policy does not apply to re-analysis of casework within the CSD system for quality purposes.

Case Requests with Special Requirements:

Forensic Biology

1. DNA analysis for property crime cases may be limited to 3 items; possible exceptions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Items selected will be limited to cigarette butts, bloodstains, or other items that are believed to have biological fluid (blood, semen, saliva) from the alleged perpetrator. This would include items from which it is believed that the suspect ate or drank. Items that the alleged perpetrator is believed to have had prolonged contact with such as clothing or hats recovered from the scene may also be submitted.

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2. Cold cases will be accepted for analysis on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Forensic Biology Unit located at the Forensic Science Center in Edmond prior to submitting Cold Case evidence.
3. DNA analysis will only be performed on evidence that would likely contain DNA resulting from the transfer of epithelial cells from the skin to an object due to extended contact. Examples of extended contact DNA evidence include some clothing, cigarette butts, items drank from, etc. DNA analysis will not be conducted on items with only brief contact which are not likely to contain sufficient transfer of epithelial cells from the skin to the object. Examples of brief contact items include door handles, counter tops, etc.
4. DNA analysis from vehicle interiors (e.g., airbag, seats, visor, etc.) in serious injury or fatality accidents will be limited to bloodstains recovered from the interior of the vehicle, when the driver has fled the scene. Due to the vast number of unknown directional forces during vehicle accidents, in all other cases, DNA analysis will not be performed without an approved exception from the CSD Director.
5. All requests for DNA analysis, must be accompanied by an officer statement, police report, or SANE notes that includes detailed information about the evidence collected (e.g., location recovered from, who the item belonged to, etc.). This information is critical for ensuring DNA profiles obtained are eligible for CODIS entry.
6. All DNA requests must be submitted with known reference samples. This must include samples from the victim(s), suspect (if a suspect has been identified), and exclusionary samples as needed (e.g., consensual partner, property owner, etc.).
7. Criminal paternity cases should have known buccal swabs submitted for mother, child, and alleged father. Cases which involve other types of knowns (such as a tissue sample, uterine contents, etc.) shall not be accepted without approval from the Forensic Biology Casework Technical Manager.

Controlled Substances

1. In order to ensure the safety of our employees and for all evidence, we ask for stakeholder assistance and compliance with removing any heat source (i.e., battery) from any electronic cigarette submitted for analysis. Electronic cigarettes utilize an oil that is vaporized using a heat source. The heat source can create a fire hazard. Prior to submission, the oil should be separated from the battery portion for each evidence item, allowing only the oil component to be submitted. If the battery cannot be removed, the electronic cigarette will not be accepted for analysis.
2. Suspected controlled substances that have been recovered from a body cavity should be separated from the original outer packaging, when possible, prior to submission.

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3. Plant material should be thoroughly air dried before packaging. Wet or moldy plant material will not be accepted.
4. If a weighable amount of material is present in other evidentiary items, we ask that stakeholders not submit paraphernalia or residues. If there is no weighable amount present, generally only one residue item per substance type will be analyzed.
5. Items consisting of marked tablets or capsules in a prescription bottle where the drug and the defendant's name match the bottle will not be accepted for analysis.
6. Factory-sealed, tamper-proof, or sealed blister pack items will not routinely be accepted for analysis.
 - a. Information regarding the contents is provided on the packaging; as long as the packaging is intact/not compromised, analysis will not be performed on these items.
7. Items such as rolling papers, lighters, or other items not suspected to contain a controlled substance will not be accepted for analysis.

NOTE: In order to ensure the highest quality and timely services for all stakeholders, please avoid submitting items that are not vital to the investigation.

Evidence Kits

Evidence collection kits will not be accepted outside the generally accepted collection time window unless exigent circumstances exist.

Latent Evidence

Digital images of latent prints or impression evidence must be submitted on physical media (CD, DVD, etc.) and are not accepted by email. Each medium must include only the images which require examination/analysis. General crime scene photos (e.g., showing location of scene, body, or other evidence items) should not be included on the medium.

However, some crime scene photos which provide context for an image which will be analyzed may be included. For example, a photo of a door bearing a footwear impression may be included when that impression is one of the images submitted for analysis. In addition, each medium should be accompanied by a photo log which identifies the file name and a description of the image. The description should include an explanation of the item and/or location from which the print/impression was collected.

Firearms and Toolmarks

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Requests for muzzle-to-target distance determination will only be accepted with the submission of the target/item bearing the pattern. Photos will not be accepted.

Requests for toolmark comparisons will only be accepted with the submission of a questioned tool. Comparisons between two unknown toolmarks will not be conducted.