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STANDARD FOR TRAINING TO COMPETENCY FOR TENPRINT EXAMINERS

Preamble

This standard outlines the fundamental knowledge, skills, and abilities an individual must possess to attain competency as a tenprint examiner.

Each required element described below is intended to ensure the examiner achieves competency as measured by examination. It is also strongly recommended that examiners achieve competency in the supplemental objectives.

In addition to the objectives listed below, the examiner must achieve competency in the objectives outlined in the following SWGFAST documents: Standards for Conclusions and Friction Ridge Examination Methodology for Latent Print Examiners.

All instructors or mentors must have demonstrated competency for the topics being instructed.

1 Required Objectives

1.1 History of Friction Ridge Skin Identification

1.1.1 Knowledge of the history of fingerprints as a means of identification.

1.1.2 Knowledge of early pioneers and scientists.

1.1.3 Knowledge of relevant legal cases.

1.2 Scientific Basis of Fingerprints

1.2.1 Understanding of the biological basis for the uniqueness of friction ridge skin.

1.2.2 Understanding of the biological basis for the persistence of friction ridge skin.

1.2.3 Understanding of the general morphology of friction ridge skin.

1.2.4 Knowledge of friction skin disorders and unusual friction ridge skin (e.g. – dysplasia, cuspal, dissociated ridges).

1.3 Friction Ridge Pattern Recognition and Interpretation

1.3.1 Knowledge of terminology and definitions associated with friction ridge pattern recognition (i.e., typelines, sufficient recurve, bifurcation, line of flow, arch, loop, whorl, etc.).

1.3.2 Knowledge of the Henry Classification System.

1.3.3 Awareness of other classification systems (e.g., American, Vucetich, NCIC, APAT, etc.).

1.4 Friction Ridge Examination

1.4.1 Understanding of the ACE-V methodology [1,2].

1.4.2 Ability to recognize correct fingerprint sequence.

1.4.3 Understanding of the role of quality control and assurance measures in friction ridge examination.

1.4.4 Understanding of simultaneous friction ridge impressions and their value for examination.

1.4.5 Understanding of friction ridge distortion.

1.4.6 Knowledge of friction ridge alteration and mutilation.

1.4.7 Awareness of the impact(s) resulting from an erroneous conclusion.

1.5 Automation

Awareness of automation technology (e.g., AFIS, Livescan).

1.6 Documentation of Examination

Understanding of examination documentation requirements.

1.7 Communication

Ability to accurately explain case examinations and conclusions in written and oral form.

1.8 Professional Development

Awareness of relevant professional organizations and publications.

2 Supplemental Objectives

2.1 History of Other Identification Methods

2.1.1 Knowledge of other means of personal identification.

2.1.2 A knowledge of early methods of personal identification (i.e., scars, marks, photos, tattoos).

2.1.3 A basic knowledge of other biometrics associated with personal identification methods other than friction ridge skin (i.e., iris scan, DNA, hand geometry, facial recognition, etc.).

2.2 Friction Ridge Examination

2.2.1 Knowledge of the proper procedures for recording elimination prints and complete friction ridge exemplars.

2.2.2 Awareness of different standards, regarding friction ridge individualization (identification), existing in the United States and other countries.

2.3 Automation[3]

2.4 Communication

Ability to present case examinations and conclusions in a legal setting.

2.5 Professional Development

2.5.1 Participate in relevant professional organizations (i.e., seminars, conferences, schools and lectures).

2.5.2 Achieve certification.

2.5.3 Remain informed on current court decisions affecting the science of fingerprints.

3 References

1. SWGFAST, *Friction Ridge Examination Methodology for Latent Print Examiners*, 8/22/02, ver. 1.01.
2. SWGAST, *Standards for Conclusions*, 9/11/03, ver. 1.0.
3. SWGFAST, *Standard for Friction Ridge Automation Training (Latent/Tenprint)*, 9/12/08, ver. 1.0.