Arizona Department of Public Safety
Crime Laboratory Information Bulletin

Date Issued: November 2, 2026

Latent Print Lift Card & Photograph Evidence Return

The Arizona Department of Public Safety Latent Print Unit (AZDPS LPU) has historically retained latent lift cards submitted as evidence by Arizona law enforcement agencies, as well as lift cards and photographs generated while processing items submitted for latent print analysis or during crime scene response. This evidence was stored by the AZDPS LPU for reference should additional comparisons be required in the future.

Due to challenges associated with the long-term storage of these items, the AZDPS LPU has made the decision to return lifts and photographs submitted in, or generated from, *property crime cases* (e.g., burglary, theft, drug offenses, criminal damage, etc.) to the respective submitting agency.

Beginning on January 4, 2027, Arizona law enforcement agencies should expect these evidence returns to occur in the same manner as all other evidence returns during routine appointments with the AZDPS Property & Evidence Unit.

It is important to note that the AZDPS LPU will **not retain copies** of the lifts or photographs being returned. Therefore, agencies will be required to retain the returned evidence and resubmit it to the AZDPS LPU if additional comparisons are requested in the future. Agencies should retain this evidence accordingly if there is a possibility that additional comparisons may be needed.

At this time, the AZDPS LPU will continue to retain lifts and/or photos submitted in, or generated from, *violent crime cases* (e.g., homicides, assault, sex assault, armed robbery, etc.). Additional notification will be issued should these items be scheduled for return.

For questions or concerns, please contact the Latent Print Unit Technical Leader, Jessica Budrow, at jbudrow@azdps.gov or 602-223-2350.