



Arizona Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory Information Bulletin

Date Issued: October 1, 2016

DNA Property Crimes

Touch-DNA Case Acceptance Guidelines

BACKGROUND

Touch-DNA is defined as DNA from skin cells left behind when a person touches or comes into contact with an item or surface. Typically, touch-DNA has a low probability of producing interpretable DNA results, however, some types of evidence have proven to be more successful than others.

CASE ACCEPTANCE GUIDELINES FOR TOUCH-DNA PROPERTY CRIMES:

- DNA analysis of touch-DNA evidence will be limited to items that are foreign to the crime scene, i.e. presumably left behind by the perpetrator.
- Steering wheel and gearshift swabs will be processed from stolen vehicles when foreign items are not present/available.
- Swabs of surfaces or items of evidence which are routinely touched/handled by multiple individuals will *not* be processed for DNA.

The DPS Crime Laboratory will issue a notification report when a case does not meet these criteria. Additional instructions for collecting and submitting Property Crimes Touch-DNA evidence are on the reverse side of this bulletin.

For questions or additional information, contact the Property Crimes Unit of the DPS Central Regional Crime Laboratory at (602) 223-2394.

FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS:

- Known DNA standards from all individuals who may have touched the evidence (other than the perpetrator) must be submitted for elimination purposes. These standards are needed regardless of how recently an individual may have touched the evidence.
- Gloves and a surgical mask should be worn while collecting any touch-DNA evidence.
- Submit the item of evidence or take a swabbing of the evidence with a single cotton swab that has been slightly moistened with one or two drops of water. Allow the swab to air dry or place in a swab box for drying. A single swab is recommended for collection to concentrate the DNA that may be present. **NOTE: Double-tipped swabs and Q-tips should not be used.**