



# FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF - JOHN E. ZARUBA



501 NORTH COUNTY FARM ROAD  
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**TO:** Submitting Agencies of the DuPage County Forensic Science Center

**FROM:** Director Claire Dragovich *CMD*

**RE:** Information on Laboratory Consumption of DNA Evidence

**DATE:** January 8, 2013

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Please be advised of the following:

Unless specifically directed otherwise, the act of submitting evidence to the laboratory authorizes the laboratory to consume that evidence, or a portion of that evidence, during testing. The FB/DNA Section attempts to preserve at least half of the evidence for re-testing; however, when, in the sole discretion of the analyst, dividing the evidence will potentially prohibit the laboratory from obtaining the most complete result possible, the entire evidence may be consumed.

The DNA chemical is never observed visually in the laboratory, but its presence may be inferred through the observation of a body fluid/tissue. Testing for body fluids/tissues may not occur either because no test for the assumed body fluid/tissue is available at this laboratory or because testing for a body fluid/tissue would likely consume the evidence to the point that it would impede or prevent efforts to obtain a complete DNA profile. DNA may be present when no body fluid/tissue has been observed, but because the laboratory has no other way to observe DNA, the laboratory may not be able to detect or recover all the probative DNA on an item. The laboratory will attempt to collect DNA from where it might be reasonably expected to occur. DNA may be left on the item, the collection may not occur over the entirety of the item, and the collection is not expected to recover 100% of any DNA present.

The DNA collections will be consumed using this laboratory's DNA extraction procedure(s). If sufficient DNA is recovered from the collections, then a portion of the DNA extract will be preserved by our laboratory; however, DNA extracts are laboratory work-product and are not the virgin evidence. Therefore, the laboratory may discard this work-product at any time. Typically, the laboratory will maintain the DNA extract (frozen) for at least 3 years prior to discarding it.

The laboratory utilizes Short Tandem Repeat Polymerase Chain Reaction (STR PCR) analyses as described in the laboratory's current Standard Operating Procedures. The number and type of STR PCR methods to be used are at the discretion of the DNA analyst unless the submitting agency makes a specific analysis request.

This testing may preclude further testing by other methods such as analyses for human origin or human hemoglobin (to identify human blood), additional STR analyses, mitochondrial DNA analyses, specialized procedures for samples with few copies of DNA, analyses by this or another laboratory, or any other analyses. Additionally, DNA results may or may not be obtained from the DNA collection. Unless new techniques are implemented, no further testing will be possible at this laboratory.

If there is no indication of a biological tissue, no quantity of DNA observed in a DNA extract, and no DNA profile is obtained, then all portions used for laboratory testing, which may include small portions from the item submitted, are typically discarded. All portions of standards (i.e., biological samples from known individuals), which may include small portions from the item submitted, will be discarded.



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Please confirm that any consumption of submitted evidence will not conflict with existing Court Orders and indicate on the FB/DNA Section submission form that the laboratory may proceed with testing of the submitted evidence.

If you have any questions regarding this information please contact an analyst from the Forensic Biology/DNA Section at (630) 407-2104.

END//CMD

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