

DNA: Elimination Samples- Profiles and Reports

Purpose

As appropriate, the laboratory develops profiles of individuals who are not under case investigation but who may come in contact with DNA evidence.

These elimination profiles may include, but are not limited to

- laboratory employees
 - law enforcement agency detectives, crime scene investigation officers, and identification technicians
 - sexual assault medical examiners
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Sample tracking

Elimination samples will be logged into and tracked using the laboratory's case tracking system under laboratory case number 09-003206. A chain of custody will be initiated and maintained.

“Elimination” is entered as the *Type* under *Individual* in case tracking.

The sample description may include the sample packaging, the sample type, the individual's name, and the individual's relation to the evidence. The following relational descriptions are suggested:

- laboratory employee
- (agency) officer
- (agency) CSI
- (agency) ID tech
- sexual assault medical examiner

A request will be created for each sample or set of samples.

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Sample analysis and documentation

Elimination samples may be batched with case samples through the amplification step. Elimination samples will be run separately from casework samples. A copy of the extraction, quantitation, and amplification documentation will be kept under the control of the DNA Technical Lead.

Electronic data (run folders and Genemapper projects) will be kept on the S:\ drive in the **Biology\Elimination** folder. This folder is password-protected and access will be limited to DNA staff.

Profiles will be entered into an “Elimination” index on the CODIS computer for local search. Access to this computer is limited to DNA staff. A specimen detail report will be printed for each profile.

Report

After a profile is obtained, the analyst will prepare a report for the reference sample.

The profile electropherogram and specimen detail report will be included in the case record and submitted for technical and administrative review. A *Summary Page* is not required.

The technical reviewer should review the stored extraction data and analysis data, confirm agreement with the two attached documents, and initial and date the profile electropherogram and specimen detail report.

After review and release of the report, the profile electropherogram and specimen detail report will be kept under the control of the DNA Technical Lead.

The elimination report will not be printed at the time of release, but may be retrieved for discovery or as needed. These reports will not be viewable in *iResults*.

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**Use of
elimination
results in
casework
reports**

Elimination profiles may be used as the basis for exclusion or inclusion statements in casework reports. The processing report may be referenced by date. The profile will not be reported.

**Elimination
hit
confirmation**

If a comparison between an evidence profile and an elimination profile results in a hit or an inclusion, the hit will be confirmed for all non-laboratory staff. This will be done by reviewing the elimination report and associated documentation if available or by requesting submission of a reference sample.

Laboratory staff hits will not need to be confirmed.

**Contamination
logbooks**

The association between an evidence profile and an elimination profile resulting in a hit or inclusion will be recorded in the appropriate logbook.

Documentation concerning the contamination problem and corrective measures must be placed in the appropriate case file and in one of the *Instances of Contamination* logbooks, which are maintained in the possession of the DNA Technical Lead.

The *DNA Analysis Instances of Contamination* logbook documents contamination of case samples as a result of sample handling and analysis by a DNA analyst.

The *Pre-analysis Instances of Contamination* logbook documents contamination of case samples by an individual prior to sample handling and analysis by a DNA analyst.

**Discovery of
elimination
profiles**

Elimination profiles will not be routinely provided during the discovery process. The release of elimination profiles to defense counsel will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the laboratory and the Deputy District Attorney handling the case.

Refer to *08 Legal Issues, 05 LEG: Discovery Requests* in the *Administrative Manual* for additional information.

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**Sample
destruction**

Remaining elimination samples and the extracted and amplified samples will be destroyed.

All destroyed elimination samples should be recorded as ‘destroyed’ in case tracking.
