



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
A Nationally Accredited Laboratory

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NOTICE OF DFS POLICY CHANGE

To: All Agencies served by DFS

From: Linda Jackson, Department Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "LJ", is written over the name "Linda Jackson".

Date: March 11, 2019

RE: **Automated Results for Digital & Multimedia Examinations**

The Digital & Multimedia Evidence Section utilizes equipment that automates the analysis of data acquired from computer, mobile and video recording devices, and performs manual analyses as needed in order to identify and produce all data that is related to a request. In order to provide investigative leads as quickly as possible, effective immediately, the Digital & Multimedia Evidence Section has implemented the following examination approach:

- For cases in which the request is broad (e.g., all data on a device, all communications), the results identified from the automated processes will be returned to the requesting submitter as soon as completed.
- Since no manual analyses will be performed, additional information that would require manual analyses to produce the data will be documented on the Certificate of Analysis.
- After reviewing the automated results, if the submitting agency determines the additional data is required, the agency may resubmit the original and/or derivative evidence for an expedited, supplemental manual examination.

When the automated approach is utilized, it will be indicated on the Certificate of Analysis in a manner similar to the example below:

SUMMARY OF EXAMINATION:

Request: Examine Item # 1 for all communications.

Mobile device analysis procedures were utilized to analyze Item # 1 and identify information related to the request. Due to the nature of electronically stored information, all information related to the request may not have been identified, and additional information unrelated to the request may still be present on Item # 1.

The information listed below was identified on Item # 1 using automated processes. Additional information related to the request is still present on Item # 1, but will require additional analysis to produce.

- I. The requested information listed below has been produced from Item # 1:*
 - A. Extraction Report*
 - 1. FSLab #19-000_Examination_Results\Item_#1\FSLab#19-000_Item_#1-Extraction_Report.pdf*
 - a. PDF document containing communications*
- II. The requested information listed below has been identified on Item # 1, but will require additional analysis to produce:*
 - A. Applications*
 - 1. Application Name: [Example]*
 - a. Applications capable of sending/receiving communications*

This automated approach allows DFS to more expeditiously produce results and provide timely, relevant investigative information. The Department recognizes that, in certain cases, additional manual examination may be necessary. In such cases or for questions about this policy, please contact the Digital & Multimedia Evidence Section Supervisor, Jesse M. Lindmar, at 804-588-4128.