



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
A Nationally Accredited Laboratory

700 NORTH 5TH STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219
(804) 786-2281 FAX (804) 786-6857

NOTICE OF DFS POLICY CHANGE

To: All Agencies served by DFS
From: Linda Jackson, Department Director *Linda Jackson*
Date: December 7, 2020
RE: Locations Included in Automatic NIBIN Searches

The Firearms & Toolmarks Section utilizes the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) to potentially associate criminal events through the search of digital images of cartridge cases and shotshell cases recovered from crime scenes and test fired firearms.

Effective December 4, 2020, the Virginia Department of Forensic Science (DFS) will no longer conduct automatic searches against cases entered by the following agencies: District of Columbia Department of Forensic Sciences, Montgomery County Police Department (Maryland) and Prince George's County Police Department (Maryland). This applies to current cases awaiting examination and new submissions.

Automatic searches will include all state and local NIBIN sites located in Virginia as well as cases entered by the ATF for Zone 1. ATF Zone 1 generally includes Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont and West Virginia, but not all law enforcement agencies in these states submit cases to the ATF.

For jurisdictions served by the Northern Laboratory, the District of Columbia Department of Forensic Sciences and Prince George's County Police Department (Maryland) will be searched manually in addition to the automatic search.

Requests for searches of additional sites should be noted on the Request for Laboratory Examination (RFLE) form or in consultation with the Firearms & Toolmarks Supervisor. A chart detailing the search parameters by date range is available on the [DFS website](#).

Central (Richmond) – Stephen Atkinson (804) 588-4141

Eastern (Norfolk) – Allison Milam (757) 355-5965

Northern (Manassas) – Cara McCarthy (703) 334-9723

Western (Roanoke) – Wendy Gibson (540) 283-5932