

Virginia Department of Forensic Science
Basic Crime Scene Investigation
March 30 – April 3, 2026
Mechanicsville, VA

*** Applications are now being accepted! ***

The purpose of this course is to introduce law enforcement personnel to the basic principles and skills associated with crime scene processing. It is designed for patrol officers and detectives whose assignment sometimes requires them to document and collect physical evidence at crime scenes as well as properly package the evidence to preserve it for laboratory submission. Supervisors of crime scene units may find this course useful as well. Instruction on topics such as crime scene photography and sketching, latent print recovery and collection of biological evidence will be given through classroom lectures and hands-on exercises. Students should bring the cameras they utilize in the performance of their assignments, whether they are complete SLR camera kits or simple point and shoots, to use during the class exercises. Also, if a laptop is available to you, please bring one for reviewing your photographs.

This course will be limited to 12 students and is restricted to personnel from Virginia law enforcement agencies.

There is no fee to attend this course.

The password to apply for this course is: c98b41

The course will be taught by the Training Section with assistance from the Latent Print and Forensic Biology Sections at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science's **NEW** Central Laboratory located at 8850 Times Dispatch Blvd, Mechanicsville, VA beginning at 8:30 A.M. each day.

As a training contact, please distribute this email throughout your department and surrounding law enforcement agencies so that any interested Virginia law enforcement personnel may be able to submit an application.

Applications may be submitted at www.dfs.virginia.gov, the course listing is located under "Forensic Training". The event password is listed above.

The registration will close on March 1st, 2026 at 5:00PM unless the course receives an overwhelming number of applications, which will prompt closing the course sooner.

** It is very important that you include your duties and responsibilities when prompted during the application process; that information is needed to be considered for this course. Remember, you must have a valid email address to complete your application and follow the instructions to create a profile (one email address per profile, no duplications). In the field for “middle initial”, input a hyphen (-) if you do not have one since it is a required field. The email address utilized will receive a confirmation message once the application is submitted and a following email stating acceptance or denial to the course once the application has been reviewed. If you have already created a profile, you need only to log-in after entering the event password above. *** If you do not receive a confirmation email, check your SPAM folder. If it does end up there, then most likely the email indicating your acceptance will be sent to SPAM as well. ***

For additional information, view “Course Resources”, as additional information may be posted. If you have any questions or concerns with submitting, please feel free to contact me.

Tiffany Alston
Virginia Department of Forensic Science
Division of Technical Services
Forensic Training Section
804-588-4132 – desk
804-992-3654 – cell
804-786-6936 – main phone line
804-786-6985 – fax