



State of Wyoming
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Criminal Investigation
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To: All Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Officials

In an effort to ensure that we are providing the most effective customer service in our Crime Laboratory, and to ensure that we utilize all of our available resources to maximum benefit, we have been reviewing the services that our laboratory provides.

The Trace Analysis Unit provides Gun Shot Residue (GSR), Hair, Fiber, Physical Match, Glass, and Head Lamp analysis. We have had relatively small number of requests for Hair, Fiber, Physical Match, Glass and Head Lamp analyses over the years.

The majority of our requests in this unit are for GSR. I assume you are all aware that GSR has limited application. The Trace Unit Leader informed me that the absence of GSR does not mean a person did not fire a weapon and the presence of GSR does not mean the person has fired a weapon. Additionally, I spoke with a very experienced prosecutor, who advised that GSR has limited usage.

We surveyed surrounding State's Crime Laboratories and learned that most of the Laboratories don't provide these types of analyses.

As a result, effective immediately we will cease accepting requests for Hair, Fiber, Physical Match, Glass and Head Lamp analysis. If you have a case which has already been submitted we will complete the processing where appropriate.

We will continue to provide a more limited GSR analysis service. You should be aware that GSR analysis will not be a priority in most situations and the analysis is likely to take a substantial amount of time to be completed.

We are fortunate that our Trace Unit's Personnel are well qualified to provide much needed analysis in other areas within our Crime Laboratory. We will be shifting most of them to assist in the Biology/DNA section, where we have a significant backlog. We believe this action will allow us provide a better

service to you in areas where the demand is significantly higher.

Should you have a case where you feel it is necessary to have Hair, Fiber and/or a Physical Match analysis conducted and are in need of locating a laboratory, please feel free to contact our Crime Lab. They will attempt to assist you in locating an appropriate laboratory.

Sincerely,



Steven Woodson

Director

Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation