



**State  
Police**

**Forensic  
Investigation  
Center**

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**KEITH M. CORLETT**  
Superintendent

**DR. RAY A. WICKENHEISER**  
Director

## **FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION UNIT FACT SHEET**

**Conduct friction skin evidence related examinations.**

Services provided:

- Evidence Processing – a variety of techniques are used to detect, visualize, and preserve friction skin impressions that may be present on evidentiary items.
- Friction Ridge Impression Examination – impressions are assessed to determine their value for comparison. If they are found to be suitable, the impressions can be compared to known exemplars, three possible conclusions can be reached following the examination: identification, exclusion, or inconclusive. Unidentified impressions can also be searched at the state and federal levels utilizing the Statewide Automated Biometric Identification System (SABIS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Next Generation Identification (FBI -NGI) system respectively.
- Quality Assurance Review (QAR) – a review of the findings of a field Forensic Identification Unit (FIU) in cases where they have made an identification of a prosecutorial friction ridge impression. The conclusions of the field FIU members are verified and the authenticity of the friction ridge impressions are evaluated.

Types of investigations:

- The FIU at the Forensic Investigation Center (FIC) will examine evidence submitted pursuant to an investigation being conducted by a federal, state or local law enforcement agency.
- Items secured incident to a New York State Police (NYSP) investigation requiring friction skin related processing and/or examination should be submitted to the field FIU of jurisdiction.

Submission requirements:

- Evidence must be properly packaged and sealed.
- All evidence must be accompanied by an Outside Agency Submission Form (Lab 2) or, for NYSP cases only, an Evidence Record (Genl 2 / Genl 2A).
- A SABIS/QAR Submission Form is required for cases being submitted by a field FIU.
- Evidence may be delivered in person or via traceable courier to any of the laboratories comprising the New York State Police Crime Laboratory System (Albany, Olean, Binghamton, and Newburgh).

Turn-around time:

- Turn-around times can vary significantly based on the assignment type and the quantity of evidence submitted for examination. Cases are prioritized based on date and type of incident.

*For additional information please contact a member of the FIU at (518) 457-2468.*

May 2019