




STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

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TO: All Crime Laboratory User Agencies
FROM: Mr. Gene P. Lawrence, Crime Laboratory Division 
SUBJECT: Crime Laboratory DNA Property Crime Case Acceptance Policy

Effective April 1, 2024, the Washington State Patrol (WSP) Crime Laboratory Division will expand services offered for forensic DNA testing of property crime evidence submissions as part of WSP's ongoing effort to effectively and efficiently assist law enforcement agencies in Washington.

Most case types for property crimes will be eligible for submission to the lab if there is suitable evidence available for testing. The prior case acceptance restrictions, such as requiring a substantial monetary loss of at least \$10,000, or being part of a series, are no longer necessary due to increased capacity of the laboratories.

How many items can be submitted?

Evidence items on the first laboratory submission will be limited to two evidence items collected from the crime scene. Additional evidence items may be warranted and can be submitted only with advanced agreement from a DNA supervisor.

What are examples of suitable crime scene evidence items?

- Evidence items that are known to be left behind by the perpetrator(s)-this would include gloves, hats, cigarette butts, or other clothing items or belongings.
- Evidence items containing samples of body fluids (blood, semen, saliva) from the perpetrator-this would include used drinking containers or eating utensils, swabs of blood stains, etc.
- For vehicle theft cases, swabbings of the vehicle's steering wheel may be submitted only when known DNA reference samples from the vehicle owner/primary drivers are submitted for elimination purposes.
- Evidence items collected specifically for skin cells from handling or touching an object ('Touch' DNA samples) will not be routinely accepted, especially when they are from surfaces which have been in regular contact with many people.

Please contact Ms. Kristina Hoffman at Kristina.hoffman@wsp.wa.gov if you have any questions about the Crime Laboratory Division's revised DNA case acceptance policy.

Please contact your local lab DNA supervisor for questions about specific case submissions.

