




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 Seized Drug Testing

The Washington State Supreme Court decision in *Washington v. Blake* and subsequent response by the legislature in Engrossed Senate Bill (ESB) 5476 has reshaped drug possession laws in the State of Washington. This has resulted in changes to how drug cases are addressed by law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys, which has generated some questions from our user agencies.

We are able to provide the following services with respect to seized drug analysis:

- Examine more than one exhibit per case;
- Examine exhibits for first and second offenses related to misdemeanor possession cases;
- Examine exhibits related to imminent threats to public safety, such as newly emerging substances circulating within the community.

In order to maintain the highest quality of services for all customers and ensure the most efficient use of resources, the submitting officer for any case requiring the examination of more than six (6) items should consult with the Materials Analysis supervisor of the laboratory to which they are submitting their evidence, prior to submission. We reserve the right to limit the number of items analyzed at any time should caseload demands exceed available laboratory resources.

It will continue to be a requirement that cases submitted for rush analysis include the following:

- An actual court date, which should be noted on the Request for Laboratory Examination
- An email or letter from the prosecuting attorney or designee to that effect

As always, any concerns or questions can be directed to the Materials Analysis supervisor of the laboratory where your cases are submitted.

We are committed to providing the highest quality forensic testing to enhance public safety for communities throughout Washington State. Please let us know what we can do to better serve you and your agency in this endeavor.

