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BCI Laboratory Database Searches
AFIS/NGI

Ohio BCI is the repository for known fingerprints and palm prints for the state of Ohio. These finger and palm print records are entered into a searchable database known as an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). The Ohio AFIS database includes connectivity to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Next Generation Identification (NGI) system – a national database of fingerprints and palm prints.

I. Database Entry Considerations

In order to consider a latent print from a crime scene for AFIS/NGI entry:

- The latent print must be suitable for comparison purposes as determined by a qualified Forensic Scientist
- The latent print should be of relatively good quality and clarity, including highly selective minutiae, discernable orientation and minimal distortion.

In order to consider a known fingerprint card from an Ohio offender for AFIS entry:

- Pursuant Ohio Revised Code (ORC) § 109.57 (A) (1) and (A) (3):
    - The superintendent of BCI shall file fingerprints of individuals when they have been arrested for:
        - A felony;
        - A misdemeanor on the first offense that becomes a felony on subsequent offenses;
        - Certain misdemeanors ((ORC) § 109.572(A)(7)(a));
        - All persons confined in a correctional facility, including juveniles if arrested for felony or an offense of violence.
- The BCI Identification Unit enters submitted fingerprint cards into AFIS.

II. Database Entry Notification Practices

BCI laboratory reports notify law enforcement agencies if latent prints from crime scene evidence were entered into AFIS/NGI.

III. Database Search Scope and Frequency

Latent prints suitable for comparison that have not been identified with submitted or obtained finger and/or palm exemplars are searched in AFIS and/or NGI on a case-by-case basis, depending on the above listed Database Entry Considerations.

IV. Database Entry Retention

If latent prints remain unidentified after being searched in AFIS/NGI, they may be enrolled in the Unsolved Latent Print Database (ULDB), where the latent print will continuously search against any new finger or palm exemplars entered into the AFIS system.