



BCI Gun Shot Residue (GSR) Evidence Submission Policy

Effective 05/01/2026

As part of BCI's on-going effort to effectively and efficiently assist law enforcement in Ohio, the Laboratory has adopted the following policies for all GSR Evidence submissions:

PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS

Upon receipt, evidence items must be packaged to protect them from loss, cross transfer, cross contamination and/or deleterious change.

- Small evidence items must be submitted in a minimum of ~ 5x7 package(s).
- Gunshot primer residue sample collection must be performed using Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) stubs only.

LABORATORY REQUEST DETAILS

- I. Provide a summary narrative of the case facts. The synopsis should provide the following information:
 - How the evidence relates to the crime in question
 - To whom the evidence belongs
 - Where the evidence was located
- II. To accommodate timely results for all law enforcement agencies throughout Ohio, BCI works evidence in order of submission. Rush requests impede this process; therefore, they will be accepted on a limited basis. Consult with a BCI Laboratory Supervisor with any rush request. Criteria that may constitute a rush request include significant public safety concerns and approaching jury trial proceedings.

EVIDENCE ITEM ACCEPTANCE

- I. The following evidence will be accepted for laboratory analysis
 - Gunshot Primer Residue (GSR) test kits from shooting subjects
- II. The following evidence will not be accepted for analysis
 - Clothing from shooting suspects for gunshot primer residue testing, unless there is a reasonable association to the suspect and the offense.
 - GSR stubs collected from shooting victims.
 - GSR stubs collected when time or activity prior to GSR sample collection will likely produce no meaningful conclusion from the test result.
 - GSR stubs collected from objects such as vehicles, bedding and home furnishings

Based on the circumstances of a case, the possibility of additional testing may be warranted. In such cases, the evidence items and testing requested should be discussed with laboratory management, see contact list below. If an association is obtained, further analysis will be performed on remaining evidence at the discretion of the laboratory.

We invite you to direct your questions concerning the policy to:

Cassandra Agosti
Laboratory Supervisor
(419) 419-3572
Cassandra.Agosti@OhioAGO.gov

Jennifer Duvall
Comparative Sciences Laboratory Manager
(740) 845-2514
Jennifer.Duvall@OhioAGO.gov

Thank you for your cooperation in helping BCI to provide consistent, quality service to law enforcement agencies throughout Ohio and we look forward to working with you.