



TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Forensic Services Division

Microanalysis Standard Operating Procedures Manual

Indented Writing Analysis

Indented Writing Analysis

1. Scope

To determine any written information that became indented on a paper item as a result of a person having written on the paper(s) prior.

2. Terms and Definitions

3. References

Richard Saferstein, Criminalistics, Prentice Hall, 6th Edition 1998, Pg. 513, 517-518

4. Examination Procedures

4.1. Evidence Types

Any paper item with possible indented writing.

4.2. Instruments and Equipment

Photographic equipment with accessories
Alternate light source
Stereoscope with side lighting
Vacuum box with accessories

4.3. Chemical and Procedural Precautions

Refer to the TBI Safety Manual for general safety requirements and hazard information regarding the use of reagents and solvents, and overall safety guidelines.

4.4. Limitations

The ability to decipher any handwriting present.

4.5. Procedure

Document submitted samples according to *Microanalysis Quality Assurance Policy*.

The evidence may be photographed for case documentation.



TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Forensic Services Division

Microanalysis Standard Operating Procedures Manual

Indented Writing Analysis

Use alternate light sources and side lighting to visualize any writing. Writing that is visualized is noted in the case file. If all the writing is visualized then the analysis is complete and a report is generated.

If the vacuum box is needed:

Place the document on top of the vacuum plate of the vacuum box. Be sure to wear gloves as fresh fingerprints will develop using this technique. Cover the document with Type IW plastic film. Smooth the wrinkles and air gaps. Turn the vacuum pump on and cut off excess film. Charge the film with the corona unit (wand) for 10 to 15 seconds. Apply the powder to the film and brush back and forth until writing appears. Brush as necessary to develop each word.

Using visual and microscopic techniques, examine the generated acetate film to determine any writing that may be present. To save the image, cover it with a piece of adhesive-backed clear film. Photograph or photocopy the writing for documentation in the case file.

5. Measurement Traceability

There is no measurement associated with this examination.

6. Reference Materials

7. Reports

The following are possible results concluded from the examination:

Analysis of the submitted item did not reveal the presence of any indented writing.

Analysis of the submitted item revealed the following:

Report exactly as the item reads leaving a “_” in areas that cannot be determined.