

Latent Print Section

Latent prints are chance impressions left on a surface (deposited by oils, perspiration, and other substances on the skin) that usually require some type of development to be seen.



Fun Facts

- 🔍 Koalas have unique fingerprints much like humans
- 🔍 The loop is the most common fingerprint pattern
- 🔍 Zebras have distinct stripe arrangements much like fingerprints
- 🔍 Prints don't change with age
- 🔍 A person can touch an object or surface and not leave a print behind

The Latent Print Section consists of Latent Print Examiners and Police Evidence Technicians. The services provided by the Latent Print Section are:

Latent Print Development

Evidence is examined and processed with various forensic light sources, powder, and chemical applications, depending on the substrate type. Digital photography is used to preserve latent prints.

Databases

- Local/State AFIS - Automated Fingerprint Identification System
- FBI NGI - Next Generation Identification system

Unknown latent prints are entered by electronically coding and launching them into the databases to uncover a potential match to a known individual. These systems result in hundreds of potential leads annually.

Manual Comparisons

Latent print evidence can also be manually compared to a specific individual.

Thousands of latent prints are compared and processed annually.

