

Pre-log UPDATE – Biology section questions

The biology section questions have been streamlined and re-ordered. The general intent is the same, but we hope this makes answering the questions simpler.

This is what the updated Biology page will look like:

BIOLOGY / DNA Questions

1. Is any evidence packaged in plastic? (Drug evidence required to be in plastic is acceptable) * Required

2. Is this case a felon in possession of a firearm OR drug possession/sale case? * Required

3. Have you submitted or are you submitting a known DNA sample from the suspect(s)?

4. Type of UNKNOWN samples being submitted: * Required

5. Have all victim and elimination KNOWN samples been submitted? * Required

6. Any DNA samples being submitted may be sent back without being processed if appropriate victim and/or elimination samples are not submitted. * Required

Questions for Item #1 : Swab (General) - swabs from vehicle

1. Describe in DETAIL how this item of evidence is related to the crime. Will this aid in identifying the perpetrator or answer a probative question related to the crime? If so, how? (NOTE: If found in a public place, please include how you know the item was not placed there prior to the crime occurring). * Required

2. Please notate the Victim(s)/Elimination(s) who uses this item (i.e person(s) who drives the car, from person(s) bedroom, person wears this clothing, person handles this item most often) * Required

Question 1:

Is any evidence packaged in plastic? (Drug evidence required to be in plastic is acceptable)

■ Choices:

- No - acceptable
- Yes - NOT acceptable until re-packaged

Biology evidence cannot be packaged in plastic except when it is required for safety reasons on drug evidence (not marijuana or pipes). If you have non-marijuana drug evidence packaged in plastic you will pick the first option.

Question 2:

Is this case a felon in possession of a firearm OR drug possession/sale case?

■ Choices:

- Yes
- No

If you choose yes, then question 3 will become required. If you choose no, then question 3 is not required and can be skipped.

Question 3:

Have you submitted or are you submitting a known DNA sample from the suspect(s)?

- Choices:
 - Yes – acceptable
 - No – NOT acceptable – a suspect known is required for drugs and firearms possession cases

For felon in possession of a firearm and drug possession cases, the laboratory cannot work the case without the suspect known being submitted with the evidence.

Question 4:

Type of UNKNOWN samples being submitted:

- Choices
 - Touch only – No items previously touched/handled by victim/eliminations
 - Touch only – Items were previously touched/handled by victim/eliminations
 - Touch and body fluid
 - Body fluid only
 - No unknown samples being submitted – this submission has only KNOWN reference standards

This question is asking about the evidence samples only (not known reference samples). If the submission only contains known reference samples, choose the last option.

Question 5:

Have all victim and elimination KNOWN samples been submitted?

- Choices:
 - Yes – acceptable
 - N/A – victim/elimination has not handled/touched ANY of the submitted items – acceptable
 - No – NOT acceptable

Victim/Elimination samples must be submitted if that victim or elimination has touched or handled any of the items being submitted for testing. If the victim/elimination sample cannot be obtained, the items NOT touched by the victim/elimination may still be submitted. The other evidence should be removed from the submission.

Question 6:

Any DNA samples being submitted may be sent back without being processed if appropriate victim and/or elimination samples are not submitted.

■ Choices:

- Acknowledged

If the questions are answered incorrectly and victim/elimination knowns are needed but not submitted, the evidence will be sent back unworked.

Item specific question 1:

Describe in DETAIL how this item of evidence is related to the crime. Will this aid in identifying the perpetrator or answer a probative question related to the crime? If so, how? (NOTE: If found in a public place, please include how you know the item was not placed there prior to the crime occurring).

Free text field

Please be detailed in your answer. This answer helps the lab to know if the sample can be entered into CODIS or not. Lack of detail will cause the sample to not be entered into CODIS. The answer to this question will also help the lab determine the best samples to work first if samples need to be limited for testing.

For known reference samples, this can be marked n/a.

Item specific question 2:

Please notate the Victim(s)/Elimination(s) who uses this item (i.e person(s) who drives the car, from person(s) bedroom, person wears this clothing, person handles this item most often)

Free text field

The lab needs this information to know whose DNA might be reasonably expected on this item of evidence. This is important for the analysis of the sample. This is also helpful when multiple items are submitted with different owners (i.e. string of auto burglars).

For known reference samples, this can be marked n/a.