



Fact Sheet

Facilities: First opened in 2003, the Target Forensic Services Laboratory maintains two facilities, one in Minneapolis, Minnesota and one in Las Vegas, Nevada. Forensic examinations may be performed in either facility.

Standards: The Target Forensic Services Laboratory has been accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors / Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) since February 2009 and was accredited under the ASCLD/LAB-International Testing Program in April, 2014. ASCLD/LAB's accreditation program is a voluntary program in which any crime laboratory may participate to demonstrate that it meets the established standards for management, personnel, operational and technical procedures, equipment, and facilities.

Services: The Target Forensic Services Laboratory provides forensic science support for internal and external investigation partners. Target's laboratory offers assistance to domestic law enforcement agencies free-of-charge. This free service is reserved for violent felonies or special circumstance cases. Requests for assistance from non-US law enforcement agencies are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The Target Forensic Services Laboratory is accredited to offer services in the following disciplines:

| | Services | Evidence Examples |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Latent Print Analysis | Physical evidence processing, comparison of fingerprints, and release of AFIS ready images | Physical items touched by suspects - merchandise, merchandise packaging |
| Video Analysis | Image clarification, identification of characteristics, image comparisons, advanced examinations | Digital video (TVS, DVRs, cell phones, etc.), analog video (VHS, Beta, etc.) |
| Audio Analysis | Audio clarification, damaged media repair | Digital audio (voicemail, surveillance recordings, smart phone voice memos, etc.), analog audio (cassette tapes, etc.) |

The Target Forensic Services Laboratory examines evidence related to a wide scope of cases, including:

- Safety and/or security incidents at or affecting Target
- Organized Retail Crime (ORC) investigations
- Single incidents involving significant loss of Target merchandise
- Violent felony or special circumstance cases requested by U.S. law enforcement

Training: Our experienced forensic examiners are highly trained, certified by recognized entities, and are experts in their respective disciplines. Target's lab employees are also affiliated with professional organizations including the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Organization of Scientific Area Committees (NIST OSAC), the Scientific Working Group on Digital Evidence (SWGDE) the International Association for Identification (IAI), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Forensic Science Committee and the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD). Past affiliations include the Scientific Working Group on Imaging Technology (SWGIT) and the Scientific Working Group for Shoeprint and Tire Tread Evidence (SWGTTREAD).

Testimony: Target examiners testify as expert witnesses regarding examinations they conduct. CVs for our examiners are available upon request.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I submit evidence for examination?

- A. Contact the laboratory at forensics@target.com or call 1-800-949-9999, Option #2. We will contact you to discuss your request and will then provide submittal information (appropriate forms and shipping guidance) if we are able to help.

Target Assets Protection Team Members, Corporate Security investigators or other corporate investigative entities should partner with the Forensic Services team if an investigation could benefit from forensic analysis.

- Store AP teams and leaders should contact the AP Special Investigations team prior to reaching out to the lab, as AP Special Investigations should be involved in significant cases.
- DC AP Leaders should reach out to the lab directly for forensic requests.

Domestic and international law enforcement agencies should reach out to the Forensic Services team directly and we will consult with/guide them through the appropriate next steps / evidence submission process. International examinations of evidence involve additional complexities and are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

***Note: Please do not submit evidence without first contacting the lab.** Lab personnel will send you the appropriate evidence submission forms after your initial discussion. Examinations are only conducted on the "best evidence" which typically means that we require the original item for examination.*

Q. How quickly can I expect results on an examination?

- A. Once the lab has reviewed & understands the technical requirements of an examination, the examiner can share the anticipated timeline. Examination times vary depending on the complexity of the request and the number of pending examinations.

Q. What if the evidence we intend to submit has already been examined by another laboratory?

- A. Please contact the lab to discuss your situation and case. Prior examination by another laboratory sometimes creates additional legal challenges, but does not necessarily preclude another examination.

Q. How does the lab ensure chain of custody of evidence?

- A. Chain of custody is maintained throughout the entire examination process in a way that meets admissibility requirements and in compliance with accreditation guidelines:
- Incoming evidence is sealed and initialed appropriately by the submitting agency and is shipped via a tracked courier (UPS or FedEx)
 - Once received, evidence movement & custody is tracked within our laboratory information management system (all items barcoded & tracked with individual item accountability)
 - Outgoing evidence is returned to the submitter via tracked courier (UPS or FedEx)
 - The laboratory records of relevant chain of custody documentation are kept and maintained by the lab.

For guidance on how to properly package and seal evidence, please contact the lab directly.