

FORENSIC BIOLOGY ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL

DISCREPANCIES IN INTERPRETED RESULTS

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Discrepancies in Interpreted Results

Legitimate differences of opinions or disputes concerning the interpretation of results may occur between the reporting analyst and the technical reviewer. If differences of opinion cannot be resolved by the reporting analyst and the technical reviewer, then the appropriate Technical Leader (nuclear DNA or mitochondrial DNA Technical Leader) will be the final arbiter. Although a resolution must be reached, the process must not force the reporting analyst or technical reviewer to change his/her results or opinions.

When the resolution process has been exhausted and agreement cannot be reached between the reporting analyst and the technical reviewer, a report will be issued to clearly indicate that the reviewer and original analyst could not come to an agreement. (As an example, where an association is the subject of the difference of opinion, a report may be issued with an “inconclusive” conclusion. Furthermore, the report will clearly indicate that the “inconclusive” conclusion is due to the reporting analyst and the technical reviewer’s failure to reach an agreement.) In addition, full disclosure of the resolution process will be documented in the case record.

The Technical Leader reserves the right to re-assign any case for re-analysis. However, if that option is employed, full disclosure of the resolution process and the re-assignment of the case will be documented in the case record.