



**BILL HASLAM**  
Governor

## TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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**MARK GWYN**  
Director

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** All Law Enforcement Agencies, District Attorneys and Medical Examiners

**From:** Dan Royse, Assistant Director, TBI

**Date:** December 20, 2012

**Subject:** Gunshot Residue Hand Swab Kits from Shooting Victims

Gunshot Residue testing is used to indicate whether an individual could have fired, handled, or was near a gun when it fired by analysis of hand swabs for antimony, barium and lead. Collecting and/or analyzing a Gunshot Residue kit on an individual with a gunshot wound bears little probative forensic value, because these individuals are **undeniably known** to have been associated with a firearms discharge by virtue of being wounded. In keeping with best forensic practices recognized throughout the scientific community, **effective March 1, 2013, The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Crime Laboratory will no longer routinely perform analysis on Gunshot Residue hand kits collected from individuals who have been shot.** Victim kits collected prior to March 1, 2013 will be accepted.

In unique circumstances, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Crime Laboratory may agree to accept evidence from gunshot victims. Such exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The requested exception must come from the District Attorney General's office on letterhead, and include the reason why the test is probative, subject and victim names, and carry an original signature of the District Attorney General or their Assistant District Attorneys General.

Results from these tests will specify that the tested individual is already known to have been associated with a firearms discharge.

**The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation will continue to routinely perform analysis on Gunshot Residue hand kits collected from individuals who are shooting suspects.**

