

Resolution to Promote Implementation of and Adherence to Forensic Science Standards

Submitted by: Forensics Committee

Co-Sponsored by: Digital Evidence, Firearms, Police Investigative Operations, Arsons & Explosives,
Roadway Safety, Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs

WHEREAS police professionals have a responsibility to advocate the critical role of forensic science service providers to recognize, collect, and analyze physical and digital evidence; and interpret and report results to provide investigative leads and support legal proceedings; and

WHEREAS police professionals and forensic science service providers have independent but overlapping responsibilities; and

WHEREAS the process of developing, publishing, and implementing forensic science standards have important implications for criminal justice, public health, and public safety communities; and

WHEREAS forensic science standards enhance the validity, reliability, and impartiality of results in all jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS a forensic science standard published by national or international standards development organizations specifies minimum criteria or best practice recommendations using a consensus-based process; and

WHEREAS the National Institute of Standards and Technology established the Organization of Scientific Area Committees Forensic Science Registry, a global repository of selected published and proposed standards; and

WHEREAS efforts to improve and standardize all forensic science services include development and implementation of standards; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the International Association of Chiefs of Police encourages policing agencies to collaborate with forensic science service providers, standards development organizations, and the Organization of Scientific Area Committees, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that policing agencies should encourage all forensic science service providers to implement and adhere, to the extent possible, to published forensic science standards.