




ARLINGTON COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE MANUAL

Chapter: 5 Procedures	Effective Date: April 12, 2019	Amends/Supersedes: October 15, 2012	By Authority of the Chief of Police  Charles A. Penn
Accreditation Standard(s): OPR.02.01, OPR.02.03			

560.06 Mobile AFIS Scanner

I. Policy

The use of the mobile Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) scanner shall be for law enforcement purposes only and done in a manner consistent with federal, state, and local laws. When an officer has stopped an individual that is not under arrest, consent to scan their fingerprints must be obtained either verbally or in writing. A person may revoke their consent at any time during the scanning process. If the person refuses to allow their fingerprints to be scanned, no scanning will be conducted unless probable cause for a custodial arrest is present or a search warrant is obtained. Individuals who are deceased, unconscious, or unable to give consent, but are in need of assistance may be scanned for identification purposes only.

II. Definition

Mobile AFIS Scanner – A handheld device that scans, captures, and wirelessly transmits a fingerprint, of either the right or left index finger, to a remote database for analysis, in order to accurately verify the identity of an individual.

III. Procedure

The use of the mobile AFIS scanner is intended to provide law enforcement personnel with an automated method of identifying persons who cannot provide other means of identification or to provide a verification of the presented identification documents. The search is conducted against a criminal database.

- A. The system searches fingerprint images against regional databases (e.g., NOVARIS, DCAFIS, & RAFIS).
 1. If the individual has been processed within the region, a positive notification should be returned. The return will consist of the basic demographic and mugshot information that is available. In some cases, the system may return an identification number only. In this case, contact the Forensic Identification Unit during normal business hours for additional information associated with the identification number. If no match is found, the return message will indicate that there is no record on file.
 2. A positive return is an indication of prior police contact and ***not*** considered probable cause (PC) for an arrest. Verification and/or additional information (i.e. VCIN, local record checks) should be completed to fully verify the identification.

- B. The scanner can only hold up to five individual images. Images can be deleted from the system manually or the images will be permanently deleted from the system when the handheld device is turned off or the software on the MDT is closed.
- C. Under no circumstances shall officers share mobile AFIS data with any non-law enforcement agency.
- D. Mobile AFIS Scanners will be assigned to various units within the department. Officers who have not been assigned a device may access spare devices from the KeyWatcher system. Spare devices shall be returned to the KeyWatcher system no later than the end of an officer's shift.
- E. When using a mobile AFIS scanner in the field it is recommended that two or more officers be present at the stop before the unit is utilized to ensure the safe handling and control of the individual during the fingerprint scanning process.