



Lakewood Police Department Policy and Procedure

Policy Number: PP – 4803 MOBILE FINGERPRINT DEVICE

**Effective Date:
03/24/2025**

A. Policy

Police agents are involved in many situations during which identifying a person in the field via fingerprints is preferable to transporting the person to the police department. Mobile fingerprint devices provide police agents with a tool to assist in the positive identification of individuals.

Definitions:

Mobile Fingerprint Device or portable fingerprint scanner (MFD) is a handheld scanner that communicates with Colorado Bureau of investigation's AFIS. The scanner checks the fingerprints obtained from the subject and provides positive identification if the fingerprints exist in MBIS.

Multimodal Biometric Identification System (MBIS) is a biometric identification system that uses digital imaging technology to obtain, store, and analyze fingerprint, palm print, and mug shot data.

B. Procedure

1. Mobile Fingerprint Devices access the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC). The information obtained from the MFD is for identification purposes.
2. Agents need to clear the suspect through NCIC and CCIC for wants and warrants.
3. The decision to use a MFD is at the discretion of the police employee.
4. Mobile Fingerprint devices are not assigned to a specific agent but are made available to on-duty agents, detectives, and crime lab personnel throughout the shifts.
5. Only employees trained by the department and who demonstrate proficiency in the MDF may use the device.
6. The MFD may be used in the following circumstances:
 - a. When probable cause to arrest exists and it is reasonable to believe the prints will assist in the investigation.
 - b. When reasonable suspicion exists that a lawfully detained subject has provided false or fictitious identification.
 - c. When the lawfully detained subject fails to provide valid identification.
 - d. When responding to a medical emergency in which the subject is unconscious or is otherwise unable to assist in providing identification and no other reasonable means exist to quickly identify the person.
 - e. When in contact with an at-risk person who is unable to assist in providing identification and no other reasonable means exist to quickly identify the person.

- f. When conducting a death investigation and no other reasonable means exists to quickly identify the deceased.
 - g. When verifying a subject's identification as part of sex offender registration.
 - h. When specifically authorized by a search warrant or other court order.
7. The MFD will not be used for random or general investigative or intelligence gathering purposes.
 8. Fingerprints obtained by using the MFD are for identification purposes and shall not be collected for archival purposes.
 9. The fingerprints obtained by using the MFD shall be purged immediately from the system by the operator except when the record is used to identify an arrested individual. In such a case, the record is retained in order to show how the individual was identified.
 10. All uses of the MFD should be documented in an incident or offense report.
 11. If the MFD shows that an individual is the subject of an active arrest warrant, this information must be confirmed through dispatch or CCIC before taking further action.
 12. The refusal of a subject to submit to being fingerprinted using an MFD does not constitute a criminal offense and should not be the basis of a charge.