

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Mobile Fingerprint Scan Device	DPM 3.4.22 Effective 04/04/2013 Revised 07/17/2024
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Forensics Protocols	Page: 1 of 2

1. PURPOSE

This policy provides Mesa Police Department (MPD) members operational guidelines for the mobile fingerprint scan device (Morpho).

2. DEFINITIONS

Mobile Fingerprint Scan Device (“Morpho”): The approved mobile fingerprint scan device authorized by the MPD is the IDEMIA MorphoIDent unless otherwise directed by the Chief of Police or designee. The IDEMIA MorphoIDent is a handheld mobile fingerprint recognition device used to communicate with the Arizona Automated Biometric Identification System (AZABIS) and/or the FBI’s Repository for Individuals of Special Concern (RISC).

3. GENERAL

3.1 Assignment

- A. The mobile fingerprint scan device will be assigned by the Department Program Administrator to Patrol Operations Lieutenants and/or designees and distributed by the Patrol Operations Lieutenants and/or designees.

3.2 Use Guidelines

- A. The mobile fingerprint scan device shall be used for law enforcement purposes only.
 1. Pursuant to [ARS 41-2415](#), a licensed hospital may request assistance of a law enforcement agency to identify a patient whose identity cannot be confirmed due to incapacitation or death. Therefore, the device may be used to obtain fingerprints to confirm identity in these circumstances. However, members may share **only** the name of the identified person with the hospital. Members are **not** allowed to release any other information, including criminal history records, in this circumstance.
- B. The mobile fingerprint scan device will only be used by members who have received Department-approved training in the equipment’s proper use.
- C. Officers should first attempt to identify a subject through documents provided (e.g., driver license or other forms of identification).
- D. If the suspect is being charged with a criminal offense subject to cite and release, use the mobile fingerprint scan device to confirm identity if a device is available.

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- E. If a subject is cited for a civil infraction, do not use the mobile fingerprint scan device unless there is reasonable suspicion to believe a false name has been given and the subject voluntarily consents.
- F. If the response confirms the subject's identification, no additional action is needed.
- G. If the response identifies someone other than the suspect, transport to the MPD Holding Facility so a follow-up scan can be completed to confirm identification before booking.
- H. The use of the mobile fingerprint scan device shall be documented in a departmental report (GO), supplemental report, or field interview (FI) as appropriate.
- I. The device user shall document the reason for the use of the mobile fingerprint scan device, reported results, and if a secondary scan confirmed identification.

3.3 Inspection & Reporting

- A. Device users shall inspect the mobile fingerprint scan device for any physical damage and ensure the device is in working order at the beginning of the shift. Any damage will be reported and documented as outlined in [DPM 1.8.5 MPD Buildings & Property](#).
- B. Any malfunctions and/or damage that occur(s) to the device throughout the shift shall be documented in an email to the PDIT liaison and a supervisor will be notified as soon as practical. Arrangements will be made for the device to be turned over to PDIT for contacting IDEMIA for repairs and/or maintenance.

REFERENCES

- [ARS 41-2415](#)
- [DPM 1.8.5 MPD Buildings & Property](#)