The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) currently performs searches for fingerprints and palmprints found at crime scenes (latent prints) using the Statewide Automated Biometric Identification System (SABIS).

Crime scene prints are compared to the DCJS Ten-print record database, which currently contains more than 10 million criminal and civil fingerprint records, including more than 650,000 palmprints. The database is updated whenever DCJS receives new records or changes to existing records, such as orders to seal cases.

Latent print cases are submitted to DCJS through two central locations in Albany and 14 other sites throughout the state. All latent images are evaluated by trained Latent Print Examiners to determine whether they are “suitable” – defined as having enough identifiable minutiae to launch a SABIS search.

After a SABIS search is performed, a Latent Print Examiner compares the results against the latent image that was submitted and determines if that image matches any of the prints identified through the search.

If a latent image is not identified, the image is added to the DCJS Unsolved Latent database. All new arrest and eligible civil records received by DCJS are automatically searched against this file daily to identify the latent image.

**Did You Know?**

Law enforcement agencies can submit latent prints by mail or in person at a regional site or DCJS.

- Statewide, nearly 40,000 latent identifications have been made since 1989.
- Search results are usually available for review by examiners within minutes.
- Every day, an average of 1,500 new fingerprint cards are added to the state’s database and all eligible prints are automatically searched against the state’s unidentified latent print database.
- Newly entered latent prints can be searched directly against the DCJS Tenprint Record Database (fingers & palms) to determine the possibility of a serial offender in multiple jurisdictions.
- DCJS accesses latent print images maintained by the FBI through SABIS, which allows the agency to search more than 100,000 million criminal and civil records maintained by the federal agency.

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