

POLICE



DEPARTMENT

No. D2-204225/2017/PHQ

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Dated. 28-02-2018

Circular No. 08/2018

Sub: Forensic Science Laboratory - Collection of hair sample for detection of drugs and poison in crime cases - Instructions issued.

Ref: PHQ Circular No. 8/2005 [File D2-104839/04]

Human hair is normally considered as a tissue. However it contains a living portion known as follicle which is embedded in the skin and it absorbs the metabolites through the blood stream. If an individual consumes a drug, the ingested drug enters the blood stream and is broken down to a specific metabolite which can be detected by toxicological analysis. It has been known for decades that trace metals in the body accumulate in the hair and these can be detected weeks or months after the original exposure. Since hair analysis can be used for the detection of use of many therapeutic drugs and recreational drugs like cocaine, heroin, benzodiazepines and amphetamines, it is highly essential to resort to hair analysis for detection of drugs in suspicious deaths and cases of drug abuse. Collection of hair sample is relatively non-invasive and once collected it needs no special storage requirements. Since hair strands normally grow at an average rate of 1 cm/month the sample offers a long term record of drug use and the time interval of drug exposure can also be determined by modern analytical methods. Hence while conducting toxicological studies it is essential to conduct hair analysis for the detection of drugs and heavy metals in addition to the traditional body fluid analysis.

In view of the above, District Police Chief's will give strict instructions to all subordinate officers and impress upon them the necessity of hair preservation for the detection of drugs and poisons in relevant crime cases.

Loknath Behera IPS
State Police Chief

To : All Officers in list 'B' for information and necessary action.
Copy To : (1) Director, State FSL, PHQ. (2) RFSLs



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