



ATF-LS-QD12 Definitions of Terminology for Laboratory Reports	Published Online: March 2018
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PRINCIPLE:

To define terminology for expressing questioned document conclusions.

PROCEDURE:

Questioned Document terminology for expressing conclusions is defined as follows:

1. IDENTIFICATION - This is the highest degree of confidence expressed. Based on evidence contained in the handwriting, the examiner has no reservations that the known writer actually wrote the writing in question.
2. STRONG PROBABILITY - The evidence is very persuasive, yet some critical feature or quality is missing so that an identification is not in order. The examiner is virtually certain that the questioned and known writings were written by the same individual.
3. PROBABLE - The evidence contained in the handwriting points rather strongly toward the questioned and known writings having been written by the same individual; however, it falls short of a "virtually certain" degree of confidence.
4. INDICATIONS - A body of writing has few features which are of significance for handwriting comparison purposes, but those features are in agreement with another body of writing.
5. NO CONCLUSION - This is the zero point of the confidence scale. The examiner does not have even a leaning one way or another.
6. INDICATIONS DID NOT - A body of writing has few features which are of significance for handwriting comparison purposes, but those features are in disagreement with another body of writing.
7. PROBABLY DID NOT - The evidence points rather strongly against the questioned and known writings having been written by the same individual, but it is not quite up to the "virtually certain" range.
8. STRONG PROBABILITY DID NOT - There is a virtual certainty that the questioned and known writings were not written by the same individual.
9. ELIMINATION - The examiner has no doubt that the questioned and known writings were not written by the same individual.

REFERENCES:

ASTM E1658 Standard Terminology for Expressing Conclusions of Forensic Document Examiners.