Automated Fingerprint Identification System

King County Regional AFIS Program

AFIS Program Overview

King County’s Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) is a property tax levy funded program that provides staff and technology to support criminal fingerprint identification services for all 39 cities, transit services, and unincorporated areas of the county. This regional approach provides enhanced services through shared resources:

1. To quickly identify arrested individuals, preventing the wrongful release of those using false names, and establish accurate criminal history records.

2. To identify crime scene fingerprints and palmprints that aid in investigations and provide evidence in court.

Strategic Benefits
- Invests in centralized staff and technology with an overall lower cost than agencies funding their own
- Contributes to information sharing among agencies
- Supports task forces, special initiatives, and major crime investigations

Technology
- The AFIS database searches and stores biometric records
- 53 Livescan devices capture prints, photos, and demographics for transmission to the local, state, and federal identification systems
- 270 Mobile ID devices, used by officers in the field to identify people within minutes

King County

For more information please contact:
afis@kingcounty.gov

Or visit us on the Web!
www.kingcounty.gov/afis

And there are many more stories!
**Arrest Identification**

Police agencies and correctional facilities throughout King County use Livescan to collect and transmit fingerprint images to the AFIS database for search. The goal is to ensure that anyone using a false name is identified prior to their release from custody, preventing them from evading warrants, or hiding criminal records. This also ensures individuals aren't held wrongfully under other's warrants.

AFIS staff ensure fingerprints, palmprints, mugshots, and arrest information are reported quickly to state and federal systems, so that courts, law enforcement, and licensing agencies have access to the most current criminal records possible. These records aid in investigations, warrant and background checks, and sentencing determinations.

Additionally, AFIS works with identity theft victims and identifies unknown injured, unconscious, or deceased persons.

**Program Technology**

Automated Fingerprint Identification System

“AFIS” is a biometric identification system that uses digital imaging technology to obtain, store, and analyze print data. The program provides AFIS search capability to support all law enforcement agencies within King County.

**Crime Scene Identification**

Prints recovered from crime scenes are known as latent prints. Examiners use various techniques to reveal prints left on evidence to identify potential suspects. When there are no known suspects, latent prints are searched against millions of prints in the AFIS database. AFIS produces a list of potential matches based on ridge detail within the print. Examiners then compare the latent prints to prints on file to determine who left the impressions. Examiners commonly testify in court regarding conclusions reached.