



BEAUFORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

1901 BOUNDARY STREET
Suite 102
BEAUFORT, SC 29902

To: Dale McDorman, Chief of Police

From: Anthony Re, A/Lt. Investigations Division

Subject: Undocumented Evidence

Date: 5-8-2023

Memo #: 23-M-0033

I was tasked with researching evidence that was not documented properly, and the location of that evidence is not known.

Background:

When the evidence process changed to Tracker Products the information in Lawtrak evidence was imported into the new program.

In 2015 when the Spillman program was implemented, the evidence in Tracker would not properly import from Tracker, which left over 4500 items in Tracker products. These evidence items ranged from the 1990s up until the beginning months of using Spillman.

When our access to Tracker Products ended, the evidence items remaining should have been manually imputed into Spillman.

Excel Document:

██████ Sheet. Identifies the red color as "is still there." Blue color is "Authorized." If the case number has no color, it may not be accounted for in Lawtrak or Spillman. There are 1244 case numbers identified in ██████ Sheet from the February 2018 one-hundred percent changeover inventory from Inv. Re to Custodian Garnes.

There are 1731 case numbers from the July 12th, 2021, one-hundred percent changeover inventory from Custodian Garnes to Inv. Re.

In the third column there are 3605 case numbers. The third column represents the case numbers currently in the evidence room on the day he created the report of ██████ Sheet.

I moved the 875 case numbers that had no highlighted color to "Re's Sheet." I used Spillman to check each case number and identified each case that had a receipt attached to it. This list was reduced and moved to the "Receipts" tab. The list has 242 items that were identified with receipts.

The items from Re's Sheet that had no receipts in Spillman were moved to the "Check Lawtrak" tab. I continued to research Lawtrak for receipts, and Capt. Poole



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assisted when needed. I researched 610 case files and identified those with receipts. The case numbers that had no receipts were then moved to the "Results" tab.

During this process, I have found 588 case numbers from Lawtrak and Spillman that do not have a chain of custody or property receipt for the evidence that was documented as being in the evidence room during the changeover inventory conducted in February of 2018 and July of 2021. Note: this is for case numbers, and some cases had more than one piece of property attached to them. There are 31 cases where the items attached to the case cannot be determined by the report synopsis.

In conclusion, 875 cases were identified in the initial reporting of missing/not documented evidence items. During my research, I have found **588** cases that do not have any documentation, and the whereabouts of the evidence attached to them are not known. There are 45 case numbers that ended with an "E" (a few others were not case numbers, too short of a number) that I cannot look up as Lawtrak and Spillman do not support that type of case number format.

Note: With the number of cases being researched, the disposition of these cases is not documented in this report. Being familiar with most of this evidence as I was the evidence custodian before and after Custodian Garnes, I believe most of this evidence would meet the criteria for disposal. The issue is, there are no receipts that document why this evidence was disposed of/removed. Recently, there have been two cases where DNA evidence results were returned by SLED Forensics Lab, and the evidence was found to no longer be in the evidence room, and no documentation to explain why it was disposed of/removed.

Attachments:

Evidence Room Inventory Change of Custodian 2-12-18
Evidence Room Inventory Change of Custodian 7-21-21
Master List Evidence

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/A/Lt. Anthony Re

Acting Lieutenant Anthony Re

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To: Dale McDorman, Chief of Police

From: Anthony Re, A/Lt. Investigations Division

Subject: Evidence

Date: 6-5-2023

On February 17th, 2023, Lt. Raley requested evidence from a case due to a positive DNA CODIS hit confirmation. I conducted a check utilizing Spillman, the evidence program the Beaufort Police Department uses to track evidence and could not locate anything associated with this case number. Knowing the case number was entered utilizing LawTrak and evidence submission forms were used to place items in evidence I continued my research and did not locate any property receipts for this case. During this search I did not locate any property receipts or any information showing the item was disposed of or destroyed.

A condensed list of case numbers was obtained by comparing three 100% inventories conducted on 12-6-2017, 10-7-2020, 7-21-2021, and found a total of **423** cases that did not have a property receipt. Spillman was researched and all the cases predated this program and were located in Lawtrak.

Further research revealed of these 423 cases:

- **301** cases have been adjudicated.
- **83** cases have been closed by the assigned Investigator.
- **38** cases where no suspect was identified, and the case is subsequently closed with no further action being taken.

One Case with evidence has not been located and no documentation has been found to provide any information about where the item may be. NOTE: This is an active case. The victim has been contacted by the assigned Investigator and has not responded or returned calls to verify if they want to proceed with the investigation.

Resolution:

Procedures utilizing Spillman.

- Tracking of evidence is conducted from:
 - o Collection
 - o Submission
 - o Entering the item(s) using the property pages
 - o The evidence custodian using the evidence module.

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- And finally, submission and acceptance into the evidence room

The item(s) have a chain of custody which describes each of these events up to, and including:

- Collection, Submission, Property Page, Evidence Module (used by Evidence Custodian).
- Release of the evidence
- Destruction of the evidence
- Returning the evidence to the owner.

Spillman has the capability to track any changes (History tab) made to any evidence item. When any item falls into the category of releasing and returning property, a property receipt is printed and attached to the evidence module and/or the case report in the "Files" portion of Spillman. A printed copy of items released to the owner is kept in the evidence room filing cabinet.

If property is destroyed it is annotated in the "Reason" section at the bottom of the evidence module. If the person supervising the evidence room approves disposal/destruction, that form can be added to the "File" portion of the evidence module. Lab submission receipts and lab reports are added to the "File" portion of the report.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/A/Lt. Anthony Re

Acting Lieutenant Anthony Re