

Kansas Bureau of Investigation



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FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY NEWSLETTER

July 2026 / Vol. 3 Issue 4

Note from KBI Laboratory Director

Welcome to the fourth issue (volume 3) of the KBI Forensic Science Laboratory Newsletter. The KBI laboratory recently underwent a re-assessment for our ANAB Forensic Testing Laboratory Accreditation with 14 assessors reviewing policies, procedures, and case files, interviewing staff and observing work onsite for four days in June. This is part of the ANAB accreditation process by which labs undergo a rigorous re-assessment every four years to ensure the lab continues to meet all applicable standards and requirements. The KBI is proud to share that the laboratory was found to be in compliance with the standards and the accreditation has been continued.

This issue features the Digital Evidence Section and shares the final number of assignments received for the fiscal year 2026.

The goal of the laboratory remains to provide you with results within 60 days of the date the evidence was received by our system. Currently, approximately 30 percent of all case submissions are reported out within 60 days and that increases to approximately 55 percent completed within 90 days of submission.

The laboratory is also committed to providing additional training on the proper packaging and preservation of evidence, as well as the laboratory's testing capabilities. We always enjoy meeting many of you engaged in this training around the state.

Please consider taking our customer satisfaction survey using the link found at the end of the newsletter and feel free to reach out to any of the contacts listed for more detailed information surrounding your evidence and/or submission.

T.L. Price

KBI Forensic Science Center
(785) 296-1114; (785) 230-7703 (cell)

KBI Forensic Science Digital Evidence Section

The Digital Evidence Section is responsible for collecting, processing, examining, and analyzing digital media which is stored on a wide variety of electronic devices, including, but not limited to: computer systems, mobile devices, external storage devices, and removable media. The objective is to identify, preserve, recover, analyze, and report in order to relay information to meet the needs of the customer's request.

Challenges in Digital Evidence

72-hour Inactivity Timer

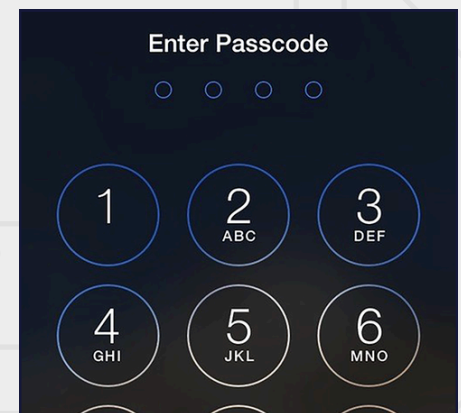
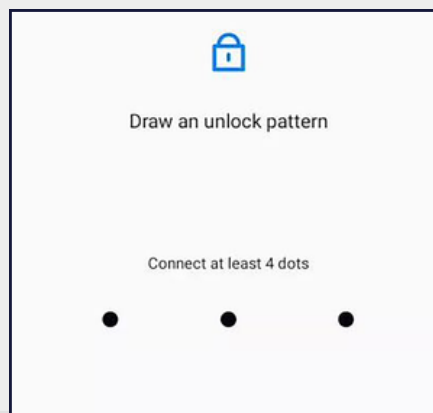
This is a security feature that automatically restarts (reboots) a phone if it has not been unlocked for three consecutive days. This is important as it will cause the seized device to no longer be in an AFU state, which is preferred. In a BFU state, the data on the device is much more heavily encrypted which makes it harder for forensic tools to access the phone's contents.

Devices seized that are powered on should be hand delivered to the FSC in Topeka. These devices will immediately be checked out and connected to a forensic tool that will disable this feature.

AFU (After First Unlock) vs BFU (Before First Unlock)

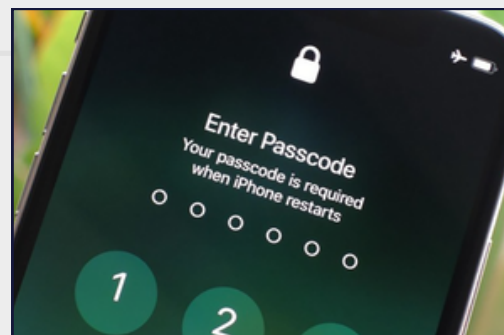
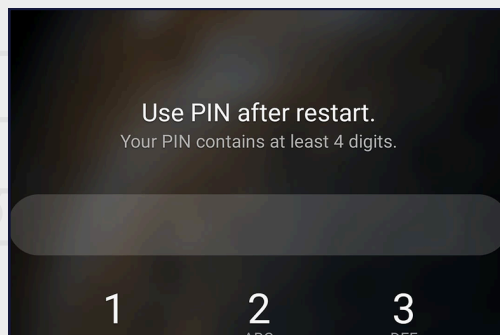
AFU:

- Device screen will say "Swipe to unlock or use Touch ID/Face ID/Fingerprint" or some variation
- Biometric unlocking is available
- Airplane mode is available

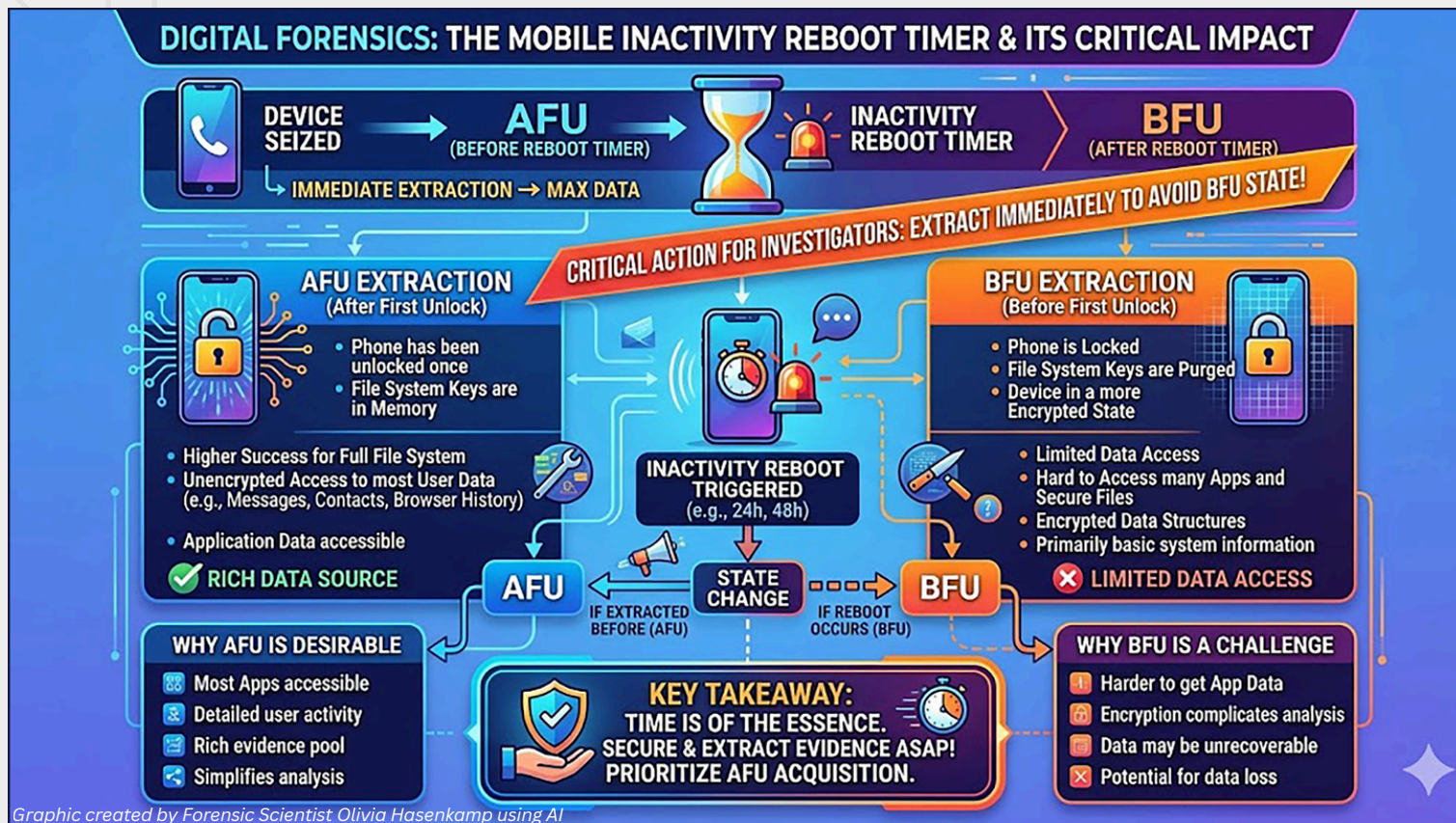


BFU:

- Device screen will say “Passcode is required after device restart” or some variation
- Biometric unlocking will not be available
- Airplane mode will likely not be available



Below is a Graphic Differentiating Between AFU and BFU



Examination Results vs. Evidence Files

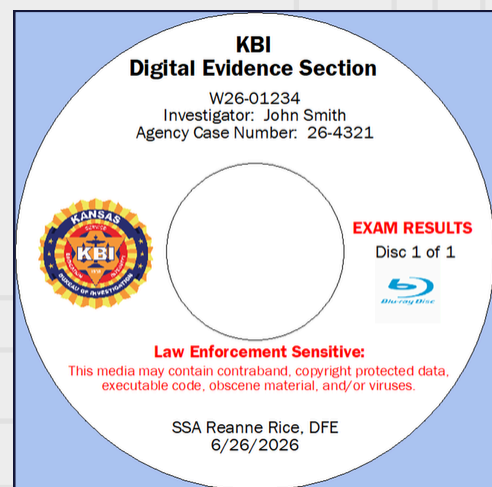
Examination Results:

- Work in conjunction with the Laboratory Report to relay the examination findings
- This can include:
 - Results of requested analysis
 - Data within a requested date range
 - All data



EXAMINATION RESULTS

The enclosed media contains the Examination Results for your case. These results are to be viewed in conjunction with the Laboratory Report, which can be accessed and downloaded through KCJIS Case Inquiry.



Evidence Files:

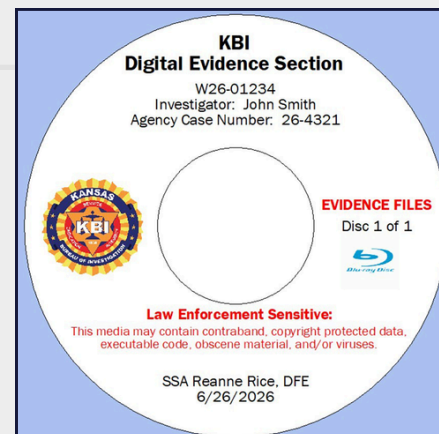
- Extraction and/or Forensic Image files are no longer retained by the KBI
- Keep for resubmission, if necessary
- This item should **NOT** be opened



EVIDENCE FILES

This package contains extracted data and/or forensic images and **SHOULD NOT** be opened. This item should be treated as original evidence and retained in a manner consistent with your agency's SOPs.

The KBI does not retain copies of these files.



CSAM Designation

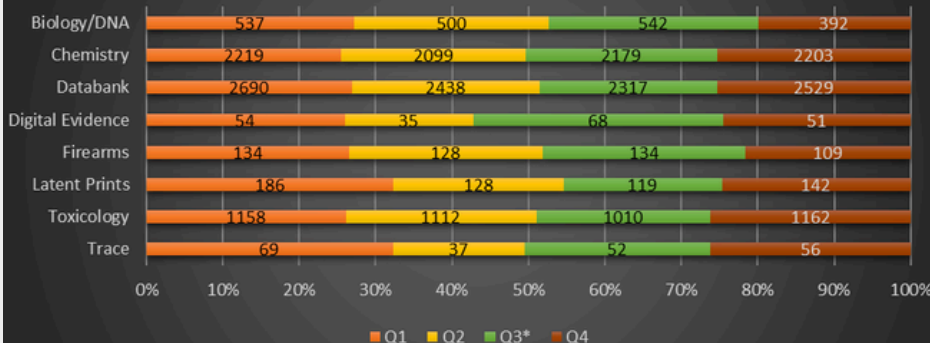
In some cases, you may see a CSAM designation indicated by an Advisory Notice in the Laboratory Report, an Advisory Form attached to the evidence, or an Advisory Notice label affixed to the evidence item. This designation does NOT mean CSAM was identified on the item. Rather, it serves as a notification that, based on the nature of the crime, the item may potentially contain CSAM. Please follow your agency's policies and procedures for handling these items of evidence.

Customer Notice: Discontinuation of Cellebrite Kiosk



The Cellebrite mobile device kiosk located at the KBI Forensic Science Center was discontinued on June 30, 2026, and will no longer be available for customer use. The Digital Evidence Section will continue to be available for any assistance needed for mobile device evidence. If you have any questions regarding the kiosk discontinuation or digital evidence, please contact Digital Evidence Supervisor, Nicole Dekat, at (785) 249-3701 or Nicole.Dekat@kbi.ks.gov.

FY26 EVIDENCE ASSIGNMENTS



*Q3 numbers amended



ANNOUNCEMENT

2026 Evidence Submission Guidelines

The KBI Forensic Science Laboratory Evidence Submission Guidelines have been updated and released. Physical copies are available in a full-size 8.5" x 11" spiral-bound booklet or a compact 4" x 6" spiral-bound booklet designed for use in the field. Both formats are available at each KBI Laboratory location. Agencies may also request a physical copy by emailing KBI-Lab@kbi.ks.gov. Please include format in the request. To access and download the updated guidelines online via the KBI website, click [here](#).

Upcoming Laboratory Provided KLETC Trainings (click on links to register)

2026 KBI Laboratory Capabilities: Chemical Analysis Series - Seized Drugs, Toxicology, and Trace

10/13/2026 - Hutchinson, KS (In-person)

KBI Laboratory DNA Databank - Collecting DNA from Arrestees, Convicted Offenders, and Registered Offenders

10/22/2026 - Virtual

2/11/2027 - Virtual

KBI Laboratory Services - Digital Evidence

11/10/2026 - Topeka, KBI FSC (In-person)

3/25/2027 - Hutchinson, KS (In-person)

2027 KBI Laboratory Services in Support of Violent Crime Investigations - Biology, Latent Prints, Firearms and Toolmarks

1/19/2027 - Hutchinson, KS (In-person)

3/17/2027 - Virtual

5/13/2027 - Virtual

10/12/2027 - Topeka, KBI FSC (In-person)

Basic Processing and Collection of Latent Prints

4/13/2027 - Topeka, KBI FSC (In-person)

Investigation and Analysis of Fire Scene Evidence -

Collaboration with KS Fire Marshal's Office

2/24/2027 - Hutchinson, KS (In-person)



The KBI Laboratory Mission:

The KBI Forensic Science Laboratory, as an integral part of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, is committed to providing timely forensic science services to the Kansas criminal justice system. Employees of the KBI Forensic Science Laboratory are dedicated to preserving the safety of Kansas citizens through the application of science and modern technology.

Laboratory Contacts

Biology:

Jennifer Solado
(785) 296-2150; (913) 447-0807 (cell)
Jennifer.Solado@kbi.ks.gov

Chemistry:

Christa Knox
(785) 296-3046; (785) 250-5127 (cell)
Christa.Knox@kbi.ks.gov

DNA Databank:

Jeff Hahn
(785) 296-2113; (785) 213-2697 (cell)
Jeff.Hahn@kbi.ks.gov

Digital Evidence:

Nicole Dekat
(785) 296-3301; (785) 249-3701 (cell)
Nicole.Dekat@kbi.ks.gov

Evidence Control Center:

Wendy Janca
(785) 296-1040; (785) 260-1891 (cell)
Wendy.Janca@kbi.ks.gov

Firearm & Toolmark:

Mackenzie Garcia
(913) 942-3002; (913) 318-9832 (cell)
Mackenzie.Garcia@kbi.ks.gov

Latent Prints:

Jacqueline Hayworth
(785) 296-2301; (785) 380-6862 (cell)
Jacqueline.Hayworth@kbi.ks.gov

LIMS Prelog:

Jesse Crockett
(785) 230-3916 (cell)
LIMSAdmin@kbi.ks.gov

Quality Assurance:

Kelly Woodward
(785) 296-1110; (785) 380-6865 (cell)
Kelly.Woodward@kbi.ks.gov

Toxicology:

Carrie Hodges
(785) 296-3212; (785) 213-4282 (cell)
Carrie.Hodges@kbi.ks.gov

Trace:

Chris Riddle
(785) 296-3277; (785) 230-9518 (cell)
Chris.Riddle@kbi.ks.gov

Case Inquiry/Subpoenas:

Devanee Cogburn
(785) 296-1137
LabSubpoenas@kbi.ks.gov

KBI Laboratory Locations

Topeka
2001 SW Washburn Ave.
Topeka, KS 66604
(785) 296-1137

Great Bend
625 Washington
Great Bend, KS 67530
(620) 603-7112

Kansas City
7250 State Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66112
(913) 942-3000

Pittsburg
1204 Research Road
Pittsburg, KS 66762
(620) 308-3347



The KBI laboratory welcomes feedback from our customers as we strive to meet your expectations. Continued feedback is necessary in order to align ourselves with our mission and continue to develop and improve our relationships. At your convenience, please take a moment to use the link below and complete our survey.

Your Opinion Matters! Please take our [Survey](#).

Not Subscribed to the KBI Lab Newsletter? Click [Here](#) to Subscribe

The laboratory system consists of four accredited laboratories located in Topeka, Great Bend, Kansas City, and Pittsburg. The laboratory system is accredited by ANAB in the field of forensic testing and fulfills the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 International Standard, ANAB Accreditation Requirements for Forensic Testing and Calibration, the FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing, and the FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Databasing Laboratories. Evidence related to all types of criminal cases is accepted from qualified customers and examined at no cost. The KBI Forensic Science Laboratory is funded by the Kansas Legislature and court-ordered laboratory fees from convicted offenders in accordance with K.S.A. 28-176.