

# Forensic Laboratory Spectroscopy as a Tool for the Examination of Trace Evidence

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## Summary

Important questions within Forensic Investigations are “What is this?” or “Do these two things compare favorably”. In order to provide answers to questions such as these, it is important for the forensic laboratory to utilize any and all tools available to them. These tools include microscopy, wet chemistry, and of course spectroscopy. This lecture will detail the capabilities of the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office, Trace Evidence Unit and will explore the methods and conclusions that can be reached through analytical testing of various evidence categories.

## Speaker Bio

Curtiss has been employed with the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiners' Office for 18 years. First as a Forensic Scientist and later as the Supervisor of the Trace Evidence Unit. Through his 18 years of employment in the field of Forensic Science, he has had the opportunity to examine a wide variety of evidence categories and has been tasked with attempting to determine the evidentiary value of items in more than 1,000 cases.

Curtiss received his BSc in Law Enforcement with a minor in chemistry from Western Illinois University and received his MSc in Forensic Science from the University of New Haven. He is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists, and the American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners.