



Idaho State Police Forensic Services



Melissa Grass

Forensic Scientist II

Idaho State Police Forensic Services

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(208)-846-7694

Education:

2014 to 2016

Pharmaceutical Sciences with a concentration in Forensic DNA and Serology M.S., University of Florida

2003 to 2007

Chemistry with a concentration in Criminalistics with a Biology minor B.S., Metropolitan State College of Denver

Experience:

2024 to Present

Forensic Scientist II, Idaho State Police Forensic Services

2018 to 2024

DNA Technical Leader, Unified Forensic Laboratory

2011 to 2018

Forensic Scientist, Colorado Bureau of Investigation - Denver

2007 to 2011

Forensic Scientist II, Denver Police Department Crime Laboratory

Professional Organizations; Committees; Working Groups:

2015 – Present

American Academy of Forensic Sciences – Criminalistics

Testimony:

- Adams County, CO
- Arapahoe County, CO
- Broomfield County, CO
- Boulder County, CO
- Denver County, CO
- Douglas County, CO
- Eagle County, CO
- El Paso County, CO
- Grand County, CO
- Kit Carson County, CO
- Jefferson County, CO
- Lake County, CO
- Larimer County, CO
- Lincoln County, CO
- Logan County, CO
- Morgan County, CO
- Park County, CO
- Summit County, CO
- Teller County, CO
- Weld County, CO

Continuing Education; Association Meetings; Conferences:

2026

- Association of Forensic DNA Analysts and Administrators (AFFDA). Communication, Comprehension, and Complexity a Symposium on Presenting DNA Evidence. Online.

2025

- BODE 2025 Annual Forensic DNA Conference. Long Beach, CA.

<https://isp.idaho.gov/forensics>

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Revised 3/9/26

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- 11th Annual Workshop on STRmix Implementation and Casework Approach; San Diego PD, CAL DOJ and STRmix, Online.
- 2024
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Denver, CO
 - 10th Annual Workshop on STRmix Implementation and Casework Approach; San Diego PD, CAL DOJ and STRmix, Online.
- 2023
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Orlando, FL
 - 9th Annual Workshop on STRmix Implementation and Casework Approach; San Diego PD and CAL DOJ, online.
- 2022
- STRmix Reach-Back Training. NicheVision Forensics, LLC, Commerce City, CO.
 - BODE 2022 Annual Forensic DNA Conference. Tampa, FL.
 - 8th Annual Workshop on STRmix Implementation and Casework Approach; San Diego PD and CAL DOJ, online.
- 2021
- BODE 2021 Virtual Forensic DNA Conference
 - 7th Annual Workshop on STRmix: Implementation and Casework Approach; Online.
 - Forensic Internal Auditing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Class; Englewood, CO.
- 2020
- 2020 Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) and Auditor Training, FBI, Online.
 - 9th Annual Forensic Science Symposium, Florida International University. Online.
 - 26th Annual CODIS Conference, FBI, Online.
 - 6th Annual Workshop on STRmix: Implementation and Casework Approach; San Diego PD and CAL DOJ, online.
- 2019
- ABI Road Show, Englewood, CO
 - STRmix Training Workshop. Golden, CO
- 2018
- ABI Road Show, Denver, CO
 - Promega Road Show, Denver, CO
 - Forensic ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Assessor Training, Denver, CO
- 2017
- CODIS 23rd National Conference, FBI CODIS Unit, Norman, OK
 - STRmix Training Workshop. Denver, CO
- 2016
- Applied Biosystems teachback for GlobalFiler and Quantifiler Trio. Denver, CO
 - Criminal and Civil Court and Ethics training. Denver, CO
 - Introduction to Likelihood Ratios and Probabilistic Genotyping. Denver, CO
- 2015
- ASCLD/LAB Assessor Course for Testing Laboratories. Denver, CO
 - American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Orlando, FL
- 2014
- International Symposium on Human Identification. Promega, Phoenix, AZ

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2013

- Expert Witness Testimony Techniques for Laboratory Analysts, Ron Smith & Associates Inc., Denver, CO
- 10th Annual Advanced DNA Technical Workshop. BODE, San Diego, CA
- Forensic Paternity & Kinship Statistics – Calculating by Hand Workshop, BODE, San Diego, CA
- DNA Mixture Interpretation Workshop & Webcast, NIST, Webcast
- Bloodstain Pattern, Public Agency Training Council, Denver, CO

2012

- CODIS 7.0 Instructor-Led Training, FBI CODIS Unit, Austin, TX
- ASCLD/LAB International Preparation Course, ASCLD/LAB, Loveland, CO

2011

- Court Testimony Training. Mool Verma and Gregory Laberge, Denver, Colorado

2010

- CODIS 16th National Conferences, FBI CODIS Unit, Salt Lake City, UT

2009

- CODIS 15th National Conference, FBI CODIS Unit, Reston, VA
- Population Genetics, Florida International University, Miami, FL
- ISO Without Tears, Forensic Quality Services, Denver, CO

2008

- FBI DNA Auditor Training, FBI, Pikesville, MD
- Introduction to Forensic Microscopy of Hairs for DNA Analysis, Mool Verma, Denver, CO
- CODIS version 5.7.3 Software Training, FBI, McClean, VA

2007

- Population Genetics, Dr. Martin Tracey, Denver, CO
- NFSTC Screening Workshop, NFSTC, Indian Rocks Beach, FL

2006

- ABI 3130 Genetic Analyzer and Data Collection Software, ABI, Denver, CO
- ABI 7500 Real-Time PCR System and Quantifiler Kits, ABI, Denver, CO

Validations Completed:

2018 - 2019

- Unified Forensic Laboratory, Englewood, Colorado. DNA Technical Leader responsible for starting and gaining accreditation for the Forensic Biology Section.
 - **Serology:** Acid Phosphatase (AP), Seratec PSA Semiquant Cassettes, Christmas Tree stain for slides, Phenolphthalein, Abacus Hematrace Cassettes, SALLgAE Vials and Alternate Light Source (ALS) use.
 - **DNA:** Automate Express (AE) Instruments, AE PrepFiler Extraction Kit, AE Bone, Tissue, Adhesive (BTA) PrepFiler Extraction Kit, QuantStudio 5 Real-Time PCR System, Quantifiler Trio DNA Quantification Kit, ProFlex 96-well PCR System, GlobalFiler PCR Amplification Kit, YFiler Plus PCR Amplification Kit, 3500 Genetic Analyzer with Data Collection Software v4.0, GeneMapper ID-X Software v1.6, STRmix version 2.6.3, YHRD Match Estimate Frequency website use in casework and POPStats Paternity Calculations.