

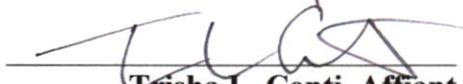


**AFFIDAVIT**

**N**OW COMES Trisha L. Conti, affiant, being duly sworn and on oath, deposes and says:

- 1) I am the Director of the Vermont Forensic Laboratory (VFL), a division of the Department of Public Safety. My responsibilities include supervision and oversight of the VFL and its staff. The VFL analyzes drug samples submitted by law enforcement for qualitative analysis. The VFL has been accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board.
- 2) I am personally familiar with the analytical procedures and methods used by staff at the VFL.
- 3) Heroin predominantly appears in powder form. A typical suspected heroin submission is best described as being a small plastic or wax paper package containing the suspected powder.
- 4) The VFL has reviewed the results of all heroin cases tested in 2016. The average bag weight for heroin packaged in a manner consistent with Paragraph 3 is 25.4 milligrams. This is a net powder weight, determined without the packaging.
- 5) A review of heroin analysis at the VFL indicates that when one bag tests positive for heroin, it is reasonable to infer that the remainder of similar packages contained within that exhibit will also contain heroin. Therefore, an estimation of the suspected heroin contained in a submission/case can be calculated by multiplying the number of suspected heroin packages in the submission by 25.4 milligrams, the average weight of powder contained in heroin packages.
- 6) The VFL discourages officers from field testing more than one bag from a single submission/case. This is because these packages contain a very small amount of powder. The lack of a suitable testing environment risks contaminating the samples. This can compromise the samples and prevent future forensic analyses. Accordingly, it is recommended that only one sample per submission/case be tested in the field. After field testing, samples should be forwarded to the VFL for qualitative analysis if necessary.

Dated at Waterbury in the county of Washington, Vermont this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.

  
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Trisha L. Conti, Affiant

Subscribed to and sworn before me at Waterbury, Vermont on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.

  
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Notary Public

Commission Expires: 2/10/2019