

# RCFL ACCREDITATION FACT SHEET



## INTRODUCTION

The Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory (RCFL) Program is deeply committed to providing the highest quality digital forensics services to the law enforcement community. Therefore, the Program supports the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) accreditation to further enhance and strengthen the services offered by all of the laboratories in the program. This accreditation is awarded for a five-year period.

## BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

Although each RCFL currently follows strict protocols and quality assurance/quality control procedures, there are several very compelling and valuable benefits associated with accreditation. They include:

- **Improves Quality** - Accreditation will heighten the quality of the RCFLs services because an independent, impartial and objective team of experts will review the laboratory's findings and operations.
- **Strengthens Operations** - Accreditation ensures that an RCFL is abiding by criteria that are designed to assess performance, while also strengthening operations.
- **Establishes Standards** – With accreditation, the general public and the users of the RCFL are assured that the laboratory is following established and widely accepted standards.
- **Enhances Quality Control** - Accredited laboratories must follow appropriate quality controls and quality assurance procedures.
- **Guarantees Examiner Qualifications** - ASCLD/LAB requires that laboratories have certified Examiners on staff. All RCFL Examiners must undergo the FBI's CART certification process, and may not perform examinations independently until doing so. (Trainees may need anywhere from six months to a year of training before they are certified.) Certification implies that an individual has a certain body of knowledge, and counters a recent trend where an investigator takes a short course in computer forensics and is deemed an "expert."
- **Protects Evidence** - Accreditation will reinforce the program's already stringent handling procedures.
- **Ensures Accurate Results** - Accreditation can enhance forensic results by requiring sufficient written protocols that serve as an empirical basis for the most basic and complex procedures.

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## ASCLD / LAB ACCREDITED RCFLS

As of October 1, 2013, the following RCFLs have received ASCLD/LAB accreditation:

- Chicago RCFL (CGRCFL) – ASCLD/LAB, Accredited since 2009
- Greater Houston RCFL (GHRFCFL) – ASCLD/LAB, Accredited since 2009
- Heart of America RCFL (HARCFL) – ASCLD/LAB, Accredited since 2007
- Intermountain West RCFL (IWRFCFL) – ASCLD/LAB International, Accredited since 2008
- Kentucky RCFL (KRCFL) – ASCLD/LAB, Accredited since 2009
- New Jersey RCFL (NJRCFL) – ASCLD/LAB International, Accredited since 2006
- North Texas RCFL (NTRCFL) – ASCLD/LAB International, Accredited since 2004
- Northwest RCFL (NWRFCFL) – ASCLD/LAB, Accredited since 2008
- Orange County RCFL (OCRCFL) – ASCLD/LAB International, Accredited since 2013
- Philadelphia RCFL (PHRCFL) – ASCLD/LAB, Accredited since 2009
- Rocky Mountain RCFL (RMRCFL) – ASCLD/LAB, Accredited since 2008
- San Diego RCFL (SDRCFL) – ASCLD/LAB, Accredited since 2008
- Silicon Valley RCFL (SVRCFL) – ASCLD/LAB International, Accredited since 2006

**For more information, contact the National Program Office:**



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