

Due to the volume of fingerprints that get rejected, please read the following in order to obtain the best possible set of prints.

SBI FINGERPRINT REJECTION POLICY

The quality of ten-print fingerprint image submissions accepted by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation has deteriorated in the last few years. Poor quality fingerprint images result in decreased reliability for both ten-print and latent searches. Low quality fingerprint data are frequently the result of poor rolling practices as opposed to poor image scanning of the rolled prints. For records to be maintained in both the State and Federal level, fingerprints must be rolled from the tip to below the first joint, and nail to nail. Ridge characteristic must be distinct and fingerprint impressions must be in sequential order. We request that all law enforcement agencies and non-criminal justice agencies submit fingerprints that are of good quality.

The following is the SBI/Identification Section Fingerprint Rejection Policy implemented February 2, 2004:

1. Every criminal and applicant fingerprint card must have all ten fingerprint images of good quality. The ten fingerprint images of the plain impressions/slaps must be completely discernable thereby allowing comparison between the plain impressions and rolled impressions.

NOTE: If a fingerprint in the plain impressions has been cut off (either too low or too high) the FBI cannot compare the rolled images to the plain images, and they will reject the card.

2. The exception to this is amputated, bandaged or deformed fingers. If one of these three notations is in a rolled impression block, there should be **NO** fingerprint in the plain impression/slaps.
3. Fingerprint cards submitted with the following will be rejected:
 - Hands out of sequence, or
 - Fingerprints out of sequence, or
 - Hand printed twice, or
 - Fingerprints printed twice, or
 - Fingerprints missing with no reason given

The definition of a good quality fingerprint is an image that provides sufficient data to accurately identify and locate principal fingerprint features. These features include minutia, cores and delta, and ridges. The image should cover sufficient area to allow examiners to identify fingerprint patterns and to compare the prints with those in the database.