



ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

NEWS RELEASE

Brendan F. Kelly - Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illinois State Police Recognizes the Hidden Crime Fighting Heroes During Forensic Science Week

SPRINGFIELD – As Governor JB Pritzker proclaims September 20-26, 2026 as Forensic Science Week in Illinois, the Illinois State Police (ISP) is honoring the dedicated professionals who collect, examine, and interpret evidence needed to solve crimes and bring justice to communities.

“During Forensic Science Week, we recognize the scientists and staff whose dedication to training, research, and innovation helps strengthen forensic science,” said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. “These hidden heroes are rarely seen, but their efforts are a vital part of a criminal investigation. Without them, we simply wouldn’t be able to solve as many crimes and bring justice to the people of Illinois.”

Faced with unrealistic expectations regarding the speed of testing and analysis portrayed on TV and in movies, forensic science professionals work diligently to identify and aid in the prosecution of the guilty and exoneration of the innocent by delivering accurate, complete, and timely crime scene evidence collection and forensic laboratory analysis.

The ISP Division of Forensic Services includes seven laboratories across the state providing crime evidence analysis in biology (forensic biology screening and DNA analysis), firearms/toolmarks, latent fingerprints, seized drugs, trace chemistry, and toxicology. ISP also maintains a Training and Applications laboratory, which is comprised of the Statewide Training and Research and Development Programs. Additionally, the ISP Division of Forensic Services includes Crime Scene Investigators, Traffic Crash Reconstruction Officers, and the Statewide Evidence Vault where more than 45,000 pieces of evidence are securely kept.

ISP forensic science professionals constantly expand their technical skills by exploring new methods of analysis and through continuous training. Since 2019, ISP has utilized a variety of strategies to reduce turnaround times for testing, including ramping up the use of forensic technologies and robotics, and hiring additional forensic scientists who work collaboratively instead of analyzing data independently. ISP provides forensic services at no cost to law enforcement agencies across Illinois.

For more information about ISP Forensic Services or to learn about forensic scientist career opportunities, visit <https://isp.illinois.gov/Forensics/FSCEmployment>. The Proclamation can be found on the ISP website [HERE](#) and below.

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WHEREAS, forensic science encompasses a broad range of scientific disciplines that assist law enforcement, courts, medical examiners, coroners, and other public agencies in the collection, examination, and interpretation of evidence; and,

WHEREAS, frequently portrayed in television programs and movies as producing nearly immediate results, it can create unrealistic expectations regarding the speed, capabilities, and resources available to forensic science laboratories and medical examiner and coroner offices; and,

WHEREAS, forensic science laboratories and medical examiner and coroner offices require adequate personnel, equipment, technology, training, and other resources to conduct accurate, reliable, and timely examinations; and,

WHEREAS, National Forensic Science Week serves as an opportunity to educate policymakers and the public about the realities, capabilities, limitations, and resource needs of the forensic science community; and,

WHEREAS, the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations promotes awareness of forensic science and serves as a sponsor of National Forensic Science Week, helping highlight the importance of the forensic sciences and the professionals who practice them; and,

WHEREAS, National Forensic Science Week also promotes public awareness of the diverse disciplines within forensic science and encourages students and others to explore educational and career opportunities in the forensic sciences;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 20-26, 2026, as **Forensic Science Week** in Illinois.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-SECOND day of SEPTEMBER, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-SIX, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and SEVENTH.*

Alexis Lianou
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR