

HINTON DRUG LAB PROTOCOL

On Monday October 21, 2013 a new protocol was put into place when summoning former Hinton Drug Lab chemists (**Please note that this new protocol does not affect current or past State Police Drug Lab Chemists**). When an ADA or Defense Attorney issues a summons to a former Hinton Drug Lab chemist it is required that the summoning party email the summons, with a read receipt, directly to chemist. The email should also include a Cc: to the following email address: HintonDrugLabSummons@MassMail.state.ma.us. Emailing the summons with a read receipt will ensure that the chemist has in fact received the summons.

In addition to emailing the summons directly to the chemist, the ADA will need to ensure that they have requested a copy of the chemist's case file from the Governor's Drug Lab Task Force. The chemists do not have direct access to a copy of their file as they are no longer in the Hinton Drug Lab. A request for a copy of the file can be made by emailing a request, including the sample number, to Robert.Benenson@state.ma.us with a Cc: to Alim.Adatia@state.ma.us (**Please note that the Governor's Drug Lab Task Force will only have files for work done at the Hinton Drug Lab, not for work done by the State Police Drug Lab. Additionally, If the case occurred after September 1, 2012 it is very likely testing that was done by the State Police Drug Lab and the necessary file will need to be requested from the State Police Case Management Unit**).

The purpose of this new protocol is to guarantee that the summons has been received by the chemist, that the chemist is notified in a timely manner of their obligation to appear in Court on a specific date and time, and most importantly to facilitate direct communication between the chemist and the summoning party. In simplifying this communication between the chemist and the summoning party, it is important that both parties work together to coordinate when and where the chemist should appear to give testimony. The direct contact between the chemist and the ADA, or the Defense Attorney, will help foster communication prior to trial and ensure that both parties have the documents that are needed to be properly prepared prior to giving testimony.

When requesting the drug lab file, the ADA will need to confirm that they are requesting the complete case file (i.e. if there are multiple sample numbers that each sample number is requested). Also, please make requests well in advance of the next Court date and allow approximately one week for receipt of the requested drug lab documents. Drug lab documents will be sent by email to the requesting person via a secure SFTP email. The requesting person must download the documents within ten (10) days otherwise the link within the email will expire, and the documents will need to be re-requested.

Please forward this email to your point persons who are handling the Hinton Drug Lab response for your agency to ensure that timely notice occurs. Should you have any questions regarding this protocol, please do not hesitate to contact me at 617-626-2773 or Alim.Adatia@state.ma.us.