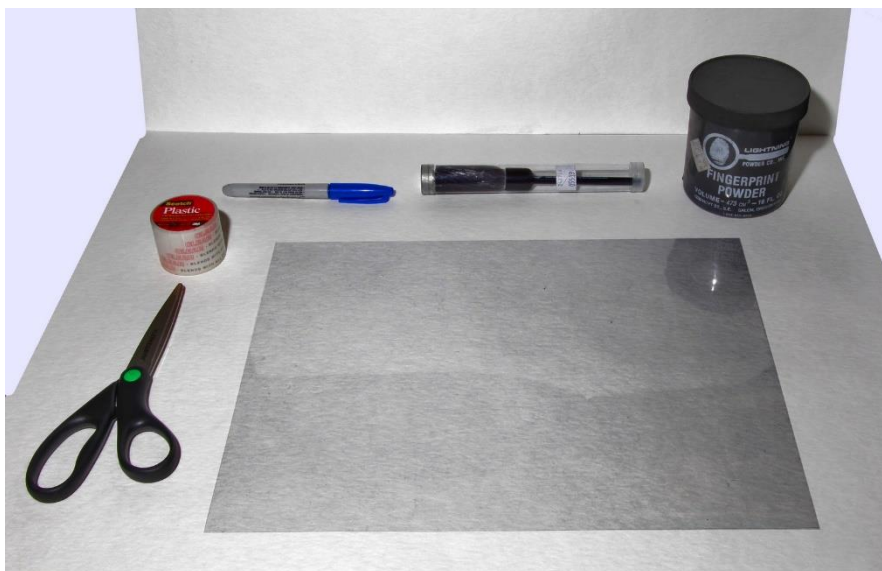


# Major Case Prints

The purpose of major case prints is to record all of the friction ridge detail so that complete and accurate finger and palm print comparisons can be completed. This includes the fingers, fingertips, side of fingers, joints as well as the entire palm. Major case prints should be collected from victims and suspects in all homicides, suspicious deaths, and as requested.

## Equipment needed

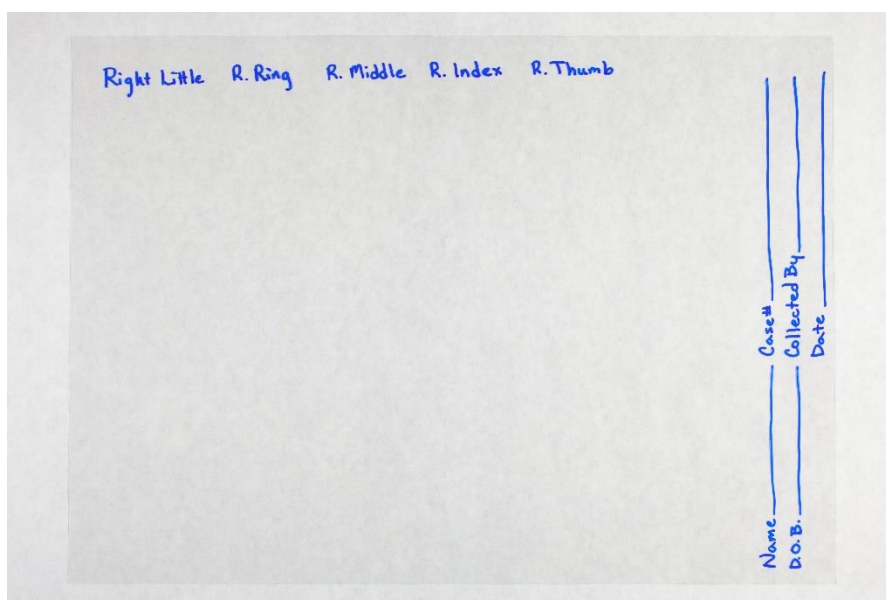
- Black powder (traditional or magnetic)
- 1.5" clear flexible lifting tape (4" clear lifting tape can be used for the palms)
- Fingerprint brush (traditional or magnetic applicator)
- 8"x10" or larger clear acetate sheets
- Permanent marker
- Scissors



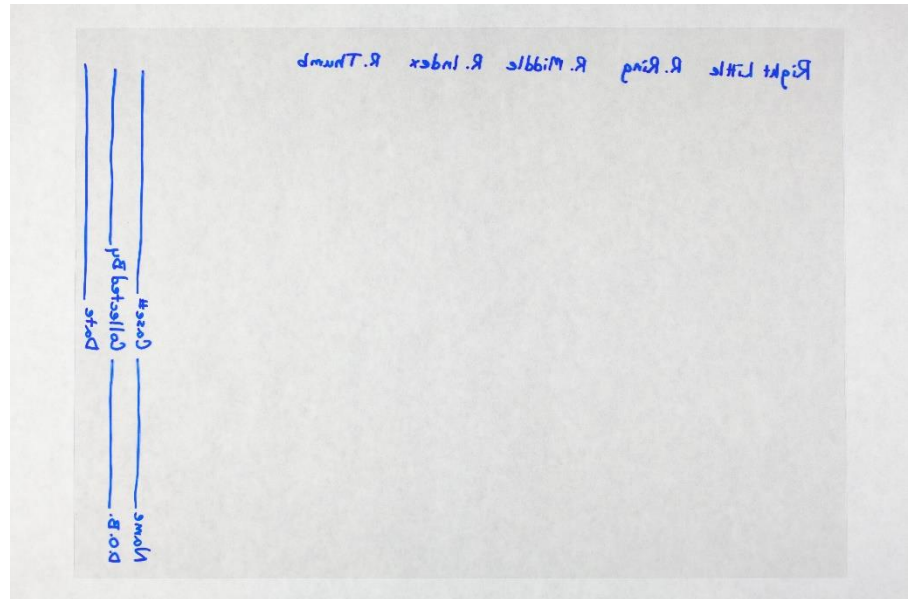
## Recording the Friction Ridge Detail

1. Using the permanent marker, write the following information on the acetate sheet:

- Name of person being printed
- Date of Birth
- Agency case number
- Name of person collecting the prints
- Date collected
- The hand and finger position (the friction ridge detail will be placed below these headings on the opposite side of the acetate)



2. Flip the sheet of acetate over.  
The lifted ridge detail will be placed on the opposite side of the acetate as the writing.



3. Cut enough pieces of tape so you have one for each finger and enough to cover each palm.



4. Apply a light coating of powder to the entire palmar surface of the hand.

\*It is easier to start with less powder & add more, than it is to remove it if you start with too much.

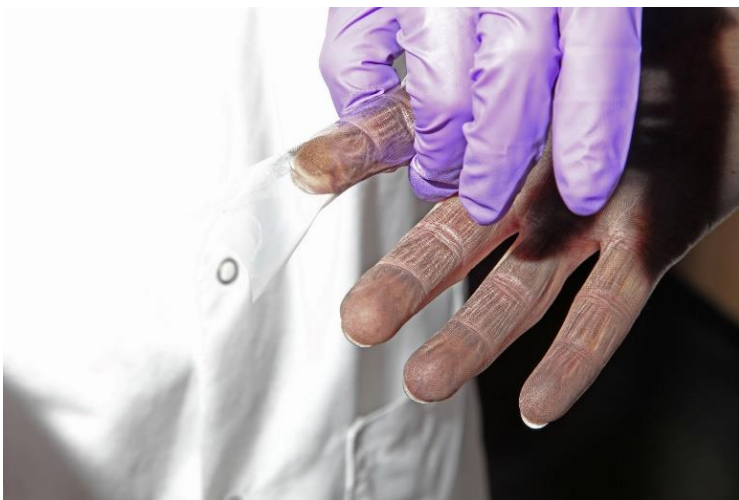
If the hand becomes over powdered & the ridges cannot be seen:

- use a cleanup brush to remove some of the powder
- take multiple lifts until the ridge detail is visible.



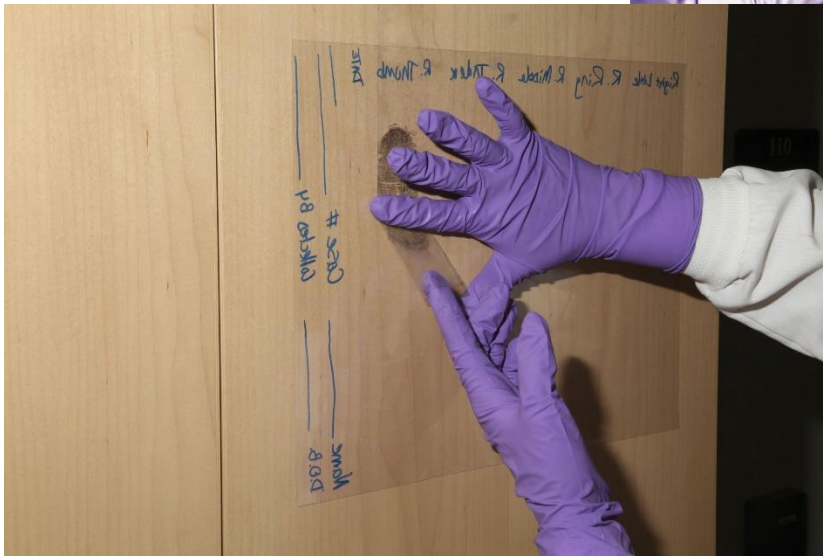
5. Starting with the thumb, adhere a strip of tape to the tip of the nail. Fold the tape over the top of the finger and smooth it down the length of the finger. Then smooth the sides of the tape around the sides of the finger.

**TIP:** The tape can be removed from the nail prior to smoothing the sides, this will help prevent creases in the tape.



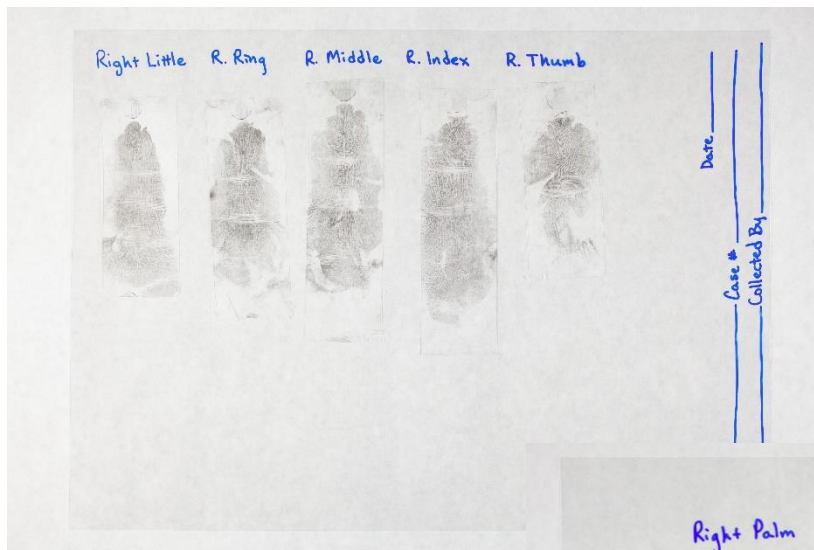


- Place tape on the **opposite side of the acetate as the writing.**

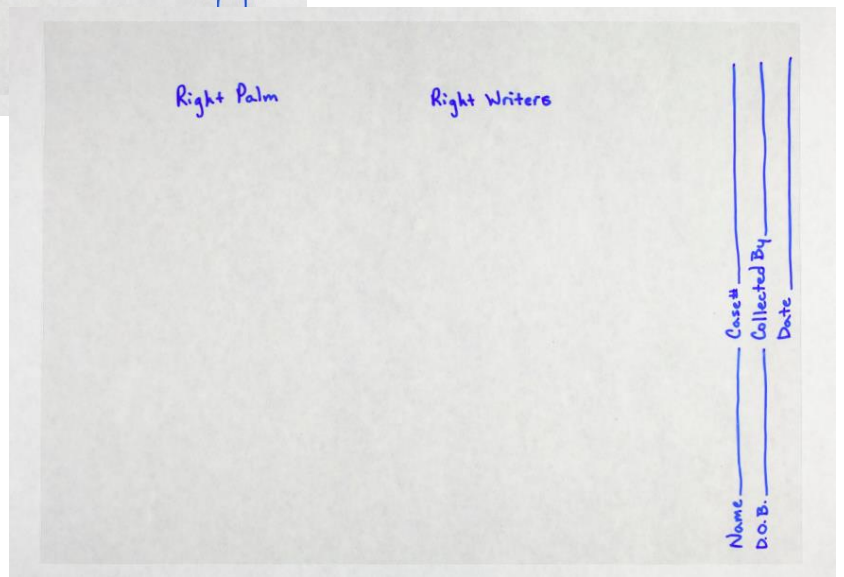


7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 with the rest of the fingers on that hand.





8. To record the palm, start by repeating steps 1 & 2



9. **If using 1.5" tape:**

Three pieces of tape placed horizontally across the palm will cover a normal sized palm: one at the top, one in the middle, and one at the base.

Ensure the tape slightly overlaps.

Make sure to start slightly above the palm on the joints of the fingers and go over the entire palm into the center and down past the bracelet creases of the wrist.

Smooth the tape over the entire palm to ensure all friction ridge detail is recorded.



**\*If 4" tape is available, you can follow the procedure below and slightly overlap any missed areas with 1.5" tape**

**If using 4" tape:**

One piece of tape will cover small palms.

Start by placing one end of the tape along the writer's palm (little finger) & press into the palm towards the thumb.

Ensure the tape is pressed into the center of the palm.

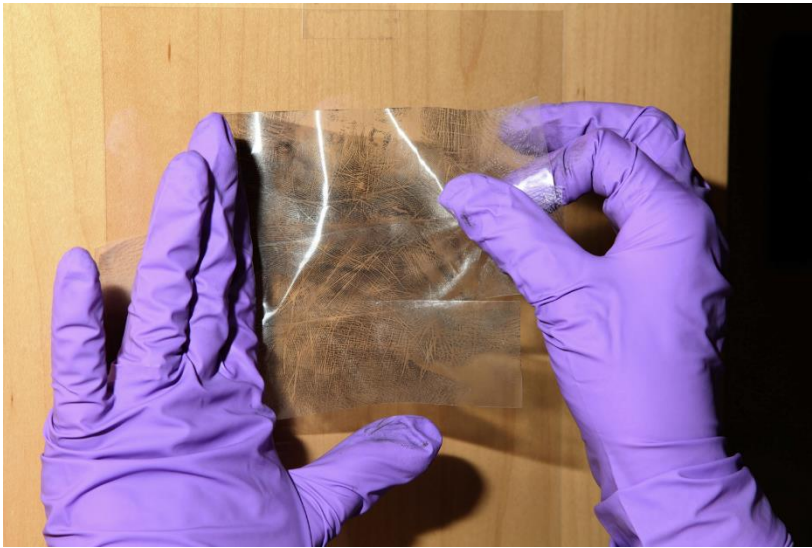
Use 1.5" tape to slightly overlap onto the existing tape to ensure all areas of the palm are covered, including lower joints & the base of the palm.

Smooth tape over the entire palm to ensure all friction ridge detail is recorded.

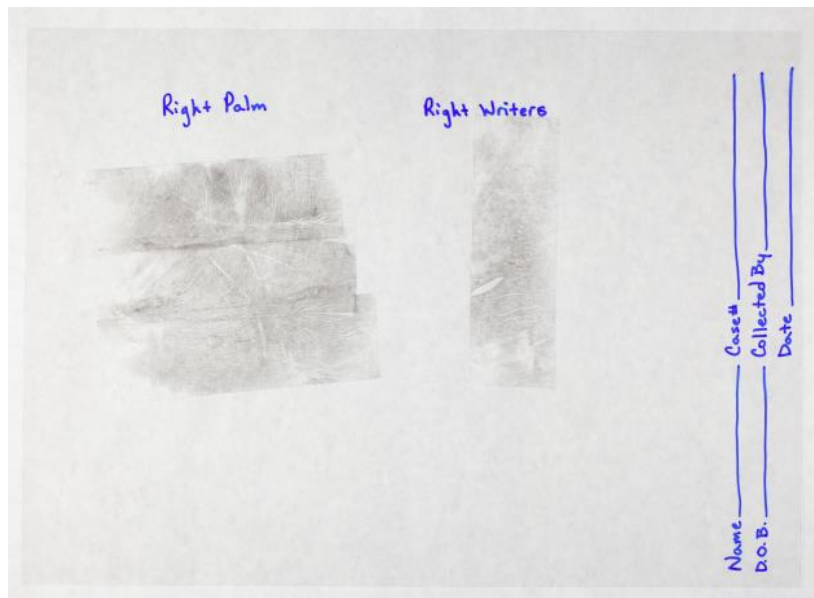




10. Remove the tape as one piece and place on the acetate sheet (**on the opposite side as the writing**)



11. If the writer's palm (side along the little finger) was not captured, repeat the procedure with the writer's palm.



12. Review the lifts taken. If the ridge detail is not fully recorded, too light, too dark, or unclear take another lift of that area.

Place the second lift below the first or place it where there is room and label it.

For example, if a second lift of the right ring finger is made, place the second lift below the first lift of the ring finger on the acetate.



***Remember: This may be your last chance to get a recording of the person's friction ridge detail needed for comparison at the Crime Laboratories!***

13. When packaging the major case prints, do not bend them!

Package in a heat-sealed plastic bag or an envelope that is large enough to avoid folding.

