

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

NIKKI R. HALEY
Governor



MARK A. KEEL
Chief

FORENSIC SERVICES LABORATORY CUSTOMER NOTICE 2016-02 September 22, 2016

REGARDING FIREARMS RETURNED WITHOUT EXAMINATION

Effective September 22, 2016, packages containing firearms that are returned to your Agency without examination will **NOT** be opened by SLED personnel for the purpose of inventory or to check to see if the firearm is loaded or unloaded.

The SLED Evidence Submission Manual states the following concerning the submission of firearms to the SLED Forensic Services Laboratory: "LOADED FIREARMS - MAKE SURE ALL FIREARMS ARE UNLOADED!!!! Safety should be your primary concern when handling firearms and ammunition!!! Please do NOT submit loaded firearms to SLED or the Firearms Department without first contacting Evidence Control and/or the Firearms Department. If you transport a loaded firearm to SLED, leave it in your car. If for some reason you are not able to unload the firearm, if you are not familiar with how to unload a particular firearm, or if you are unsure about its loaded status, please contact the Firearms Department for assistance.

Therefore, no loaded firearms should be placed in a sealed container and submitted to the SLED Forensics laboratory. In an effort to streamline workflow and provide faster turnaround times, the SLED Firearms Department will no longer open evidence packages containing firearms for the purpose of inventory or to verify that the firearms are unloaded prior to returning them to your Agency. Firearms in sealed packages that are being returned without examination will be returned in the same condition they were submitted. As such, be advised that if a firearm was loaded upon submission to SLED, it will remain loaded upon its return. Please handle all returned firearms accordingly and take appropriate safety precautions.



An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

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