

# ACCREDITATION



## INTRODUCTION

The Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory (RCFL) Program is deeply committed to providing the highest quality digital forensics services to the law enforcement community. Therefore, the program supports the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) accreditation to further enhance and strengthen the services offered by all of the laboratories in the program. This accreditation is awarded for a five-year period.

## BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

Although RCFLs follow strict FBI protocols and quality assurance/quality control procedures, additional benefits of earning ASCLD/LAB accreditation include:

- ***Improves Quality***—Accreditation heightens the quality of RCFLs services because an independent, impartial and objective team of experts reviews the laboratory’s findings and operations. Accredited laboratories must follow appropriate quality controls and quality assurance procedures.
- ***Strengthens Operations***—Accreditation ensures an RCFL is abiding by criteria that are designed to assess performance, while also strengthening operations.
- ***Establishes Standards***—The general public and RCFL customers are assured that the laboratory is following established and widely accepted standards.
- ***Guarantees Examiner Qualifications***—ASCLD/LAB requires that laboratories have certified Examiners on staff. All RCFL Examiners undergo the FBI’s Computer Analysis Response Team’s certification process, and cannot perform examinations independently successfully completing this process. Certification implies that an individual has a certain body of knowledge, and counters a recent trend where an investigator takes a short course in computer forensics and is deemed an “expert.”
- ***Protects Evidence*** - Accreditation will reinforce the program’s already stringent handling procedures.
- ***Ensures Accurate Results*** - Accreditation can enhance forensic results by requiring sufficient written protocols that serve as an empirical basis for the most basic and complex procedures.

## ASCLD/LAB ACCREDITED RCFLs

To date, the North Texas, Silicon Valley, New Jersey, Heart of America, San Diego, Rocky Mountain, Intermountain West, Northwest, Philadelphia, Kentucky, Greater Houston, and Chicago RCFLs have earned ASCLD/LAB accreditation in digital evidence. The Intermountain West and North Texas RCFLs also earned ASCLD/LAB’s international accreditation in digital evidence.

**For more information, contact the National Program Office:**



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