THE USE OF THE Whatman™ FTA™ Elute TO SIMPLIFY STORAGE AND REANALYSIS OF EXTRACTED DNA FROM FORENSIC SAMPLES

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Forensic laboratories and their submitting agencies often have an obligation to maintain forensic DNA samples and extracts for use in future testing. Required by statute or laboratory policy, many of these samples are being stored as liquid extracts in freezers that are expensive and take up precious space within the laboratory. Whatman FTA Elute technology allows for long-term DNA preservation at room temperature combined with easy elution for future testing of individual samples. In contrast to classic FTA cards, the FTA Elute chemistry releases DNA into solution with a simple water and heat elution step. Eluted DNA can be used for many applications including STR analysis, sequencing, and real-time PCR.

Previous protocols for the FTA Elute technology focused on collection and storage of intact biological specimens. Optimized protocols for storage and elution of extracted DNA have now been developed to provide guidance to laboratories interested in room temperature storage of forensic DNA extracts. A general overview of the technology, protocols and experimental data supporting the use of FTA Elute for extracted DNA will be presented.