



Brian Dalrymple & Associates
A Division of 1326152 Ontario Limited

P.O. Box 296,
Orillia, ON L3V 6J6

Tel: (705) 835-0227
Fax: (705) 835-0488

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I co-developed the use of lasers to find evidence in 1977. This represented more than just the use of lasers, it represented the first time in history that fluorescence was used in a serious way as a strategy in the detection of fingerprints and other evidence. Before the introduction of extension chemistry like DFO and Rhodamine 6G, lasers were finding fingerprints, body fluids and other evidence that went undetected by conventional methods, including a 42 year old fingerprint of a war criminal.

Lasers were initially very expensive, non-portable, temperamental and difficult to use, prompting the search for a portable "alternative light source" to accomplish the same results at crime scenes for less money. Filtered lamps and LEDS (light emitting diode sources) were developed and have been very effective at locating evidence.

One truth, however, an inconvenient one, in the words of Al Gore, has emerged. Use of these new portable sources does not duplicate the detection range of lasers. They are complimentary rather than replacements. While the two types of light do many of the same things, each has proven routinely capable of detecting evidence missed by the other.

They can be regarded as two different groups – lasers (single-wavelength sources) and all others (selected bands of wavelengths for different target items). They can be compared to rifles and shotguns – both are firearms, both can do some of the same things, but each is capable of doing something the other cannot. By extension, if both types of source are not utilized, there is a very real danger of missing critical evidence.

On one high profile investigation in which I played a role, involving a serial killer, a residence was examined comprehensively with a filtered lamp source. Only unsuitable fragments were located. When the same residence was examined by laser, over 40 naturally fluorescing fingerprints were found and photographed.

I am a forensic consultant and instructor, both in the private sector and at police colleges and police agencies. I have no financial relationship with any company that provides forensic equipment. I acquired a filtered lamp forensic light ten years ago, shortly after commencing my business, and have recently acquired a Coherent Tracer laser.

I have been using lasers casework in my police career since 1977, and in both casework and training in my business since 2006, and have found no equal for the Tracer in that time. It is powerful, portable, robust and dependable.

I believe it to be an essential forensic tool for every police agency that conducts forensic examinations.

Yours Truly,

Brian Dalrymple