



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## State Highway Patrol

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor  
Reuben F. Young, Secretary

Colonel Michael W. Gilchrist  
Commander

### Field Operations

3 July 2012

### MEMORANDUM

TO: SECTION

TROOP COMMANDERS

DIRECTORS

FROM: LIEUTENANT COLONEL G. L. BELL (EMAIL)

RE: BLOOD SAMPLES FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

The attached memorandum from Regina Godette-Crawford, Chief, Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) is forwarded for your review. As evidenced by the memorandum, OEMS has several concerns with the provision in G.S. 20-139.1(d2) that requires Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) to withdraw blood for chemical analysis when directed to do so by law enforcement offices.

As pointed out in the memorandum, the statute, in effect, requires EMT's to perform a medical procedure that they are not specifically trained to perform and that is outside the scope of their professional practice. Additionally, the manufacturer of the biological specimen kit (TriTechForensics) specifically provides the kit may only be used by "a physician, registered nurse or trained phlebotomist."

**In light of the issues raised by Chief Crawford, members of the Highway Patrol shall not request EMT's to withdraw blood for any reason until further notice.**

Your immediate compliance with this correspondence is greatly appreciated.

GLB:JPD:gmm

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**MAILING ADDRESS:**

4702 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4702  
www.ncdps.gov  
www.ncshp.org



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**OFFICE LOCATION:**

512 N. Salisbury St.  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4702  
Telephone: (919) 733-7952  
Fax: (919) 715-4059