

Forensic podology code of practice



Easy read version

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Version control

Version	Date	Lead author	Description of changes	Committee approving/ratifying change
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Forensic podology code of practice

What is forensic podology?

Forensic podology is the study of footprints and feet to help solve crimes. Experts look at footprints or how feet fit into shoes to gather evidence.

Why is this code important?

This document sets rules for forensic podologists to make sure their work is thorough, accurate and fair. It helps prevent mistakes that could lead to wrongful convictions.

Who should follow this code?

- Forensic podologists (experts who study footprints and feet in crime investigations)
- Other professionals interested in forensic podology
- Legal professionals who use forensic podology evidence.

Key rules for forensic podologists

1) Working to high standards

- Experts must follow clear procedures when analysing evidence
- All methods must be tested and proven to be reliable.

2) Avoiding mistakes

- Every case must be reviewed by another expert
- Experts must be careful not to let personal opinions affect their findings.

3) Following the law

- Experts must follow legal rules, such as the Criminal Procedure Rules and Criminal Practice Directions in England and Wales
- They must also follow the rules of the Forensic Science Regulator.

4) Confidentiality and honesty

- Experts must keep all ongoing case details private
- They must be independent and not influenced by outside pressure.

5) Handling complaints

- If someone complains about a forensic podologist's work, there must be a fair investigation
- If a mistake is found, it must be corrected.

How forensic podologists work

1) Footprint analysis

- Experts examine footprints found at crime scenes
- They compare them to known footprints from suspects.

2) Feet-in-shoes analysis

- Experts study how a person's foot fits into a shoe
- This can help determine who wore a shoe found at a crime scene.

3) Gathering and storing evidence

- Experts must handle and store evidence carefully to keep it safe
- They must take clear notes and keep records of their work.

4) Writing reports

- Experts must write clear and detailed reports explaining their findings
- Reports should be easy to understand for courts and lawyers.

5) Training and improving skills

- Forensic podologists must keep learning and improving their skills
- They must take part in professional development activities, such as training courses and conferences.

Making sure the work is reliable

1) Checking methods

- All methods used must be tested to ensure they work properly
- If a new method is used, it must be reviewed and approved.

2) Keeping good records

- Experts must keep records of every case they work on
- Records should be stored safely for future reference.

3) Internal audits

- Experts should regularly review their own work
- They should follow a plan to make improvements if needed.

Final notes

Forensic podology plays an important role in solving crimes. Following this code helps ensure that forensic podologists do their job properly, fairly, and according to the law.