

LEVELS OF OPINIONS

■ **Identification**

This is the highest degree of confidence regarding identification expressed by document examiners.

■ **Strong Probability of Identification**

The evidence supports an opinion of identification yet some critical quality is missing.

■ **Probable Identification**

The evidence points towards identification.

■ **Indications of Identification**

The evidence has a few significant features that are in agreement comparatively.

■ **No Conclusion Concerning Identification**

Used when there are limiting factors such as disguised writing, illegibility, lack of uniquely identifying traits, or deficiency in available exemplars.

■ **Indications Did Not**

The evidence has a few significant features indicating that the same person did not create both samples.

■ **Probably Did Not**

Evidence is clear; however, it falls short of providing more certainty in the degree of confidence.

■ **Strong Probability Did Not**

The evidence is very clear, yet some critical quality is missing for virtual certainty.

■ **Elimination**

Highest degree of confidence which expresses no doubt regarding authorship.

Source: Journal of Forensic Sciences. "The Standardization of Handwriting Opinion Terminology", 311-319 (March 1991)