



INDIANA STATE POLICE LABORATORY DIVISION

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE BULLETIN

CODIS DNA DATABASE

INTRODUCTION: The Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) is a computer database of DNA profiles used to solve crimes across the United States. In Indiana, DNA profiles obtained from the following categories can be entered into CODIS: convicted felons, felony arrestees, crime scene evidence, missing persons, relatives of missing persons and unidentified human (remains). The purpose of the database is to generate investigative leads by identifying matches between these categories. A continued "life of crime" or the high incidence of recidivism in criminals is the concept upon which the DNA database program is based. If an arrestee or convicted offender's profile matches crime scene evidence, this can identify a potential suspect(s). The database can also link multiple unsolved crimes to identify serial offenses and connect agencies who can then work together in the investigation. Finally, CODIS can be used to identify human remains by matching them to missing persons or to their biological relatives. To maximize the value of this program, biological evidence from unsolved crimes and missing persons cases must be analyzed and entered into CODIS. Please also see Physical Evidence Bulletin 21 for Missing Persons/Unidentified Remains.

I. CONVICTED OFFENDERS AND ARRESTEES

- A. DNA samples (usually oral swabs) are collected from all individuals convicted of or arrested for a felony by Department of Correction, county officials or during the booking process.
- B. A person may request (via court order) to be removed from the database if
 1. the conviction has been reversed
 2. the person was acquitted or all felony charges were converted to misdemeanors
 3. all felony charges were dismissed
 4. 365 days have elapsed and no felony charges have been filed

II. NO SUSPECT/UNSOLVED CASES

- A. Unsolved cases with potential DNA evidence unambiguously relevant to the crime, including those with no suspects, should be submitted to the Indiana State Police Laboratory for analysis.
- B. For proper evidence collection procedures, see Indiana State Police Physical Evidence Bulletin 17 for Evidence Collection for DNA Analysis.
- C. When possible, a DNA profile will be developed from evidentiary samples. All profiles determined to be eligible will be entered into CODIS. The laboratory shall make final determination of what is eligible to be entered based on information provided by the submitting agency.
- D. When submitting “touch” or skin cell only evidence, submission of elimination DNA standards from anyone known to have touched that area are necessary. For example, in the case of an auto theft with a swab of the steering wheel, DNA standards from the regular driver(s) of the vehicle shall also be submitted.
- E. Commonly touched items (or items routinely touched by 4 or more people) such as door knobs and countertops are typically not CODIS eligible. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of a CODIS Administrator.
- F. Due to extremely low success rates, the Laboratory will not examine cartridges, cartridge cases or swabs of these items for the presence of DNA except in extenuating circumstances with the approval of the Laboratory Manager or Unit Supervisor.
- G. All eligible profiles shall automatically be entered into CODIS in accordance with state and national regulations, where they shall be searched routinely against the database. The submitting agency will be notified of any confirmed matches or if the profile is ever removed from CODIS.
- H. The presence of a suspect’s convicted offender or arrestee sample in CODIS does not replace the requirement for a new evidentiary suspect standard for comparison to crime scene evidence. Matches generated by CODIS database searches are meant to provide investigative leads and probable cause information. An evidentiary standard will still be requested from the individual for criminal prosecution.

For more information, please contact a member of the CODIS Unit at the Indianapolis Regional Laboratory.

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Laboratory hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time Zone; Monday through Friday

CODIS Guidelines for Property and other Non-Violent Crimes

