

CODIS PROGRAM

THE COMBINED DNA INDEX SYSTEM (CODIS) PROGRAM

The Washington State Patrol Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) is composed of different categories (or indexes) of samples, including:

- Offender: contains DNA profiles of Washington convicted offenders.
- Forensic: contains DNA profiles generated from crime scene evidence.
- Missing Persons: contains DNA records of missing persons and deduced missing persons.
 - Relatives of Missing Persons: contains DNA records from the biological relatives of individuals reported missing.
 - Unidentified Humans: contains DNA records from recovered living persons (e.g. children who can't and others who can't or refuse to identify themselves) and recovered dead persons (including body parts and tissues) whose identities are not known.

DNA casework analysts contribute the DNA profiles for all indexes except the Offender Index. If a DNA profile is generated from an evidence sample submitted to any of the DNA casework laboratories, it will be searched against the database if appropriate. The database searched (national- or state-level) will depend on the relevant NDIS Procedures and WSP CODIS Procedures in effect at the time the profile is initially entered. If the database eligibility requirements change after a profile is initially entered, profiles may be moved from one database to the other, or removed from the database entirely. If removal occurs, the submitting agency will be notified. Samples eligible for upload to the state CODIS database are automatically searched against the appropriate indexes and may result in an investigative lead for the submitting agency. Investigative leads may be due to a profile in the Forensic Index matching another Forensic Index profile (a forensic hit) or matching a profile in the Offender Index (an offender hit).

All fifty states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigations Laboratory, and Puerto Rico submit eligible DNA profiles to the FBI-sponsored National DNA Index System (NDIS). DNA profiles at NDIS are searched on a regular basis against the appropriate indexes resulting in hits between WA State DNA profiles and profiles submitted by other NDIS participating laboratories across the nation. In addition to the indexes listed above, NDIS maintains additional indexes such as the Arrestee Index and Detainee Index which are populated by entities that have the legal authority to collect DNA samples from these individuals.

Offender DNA samples are collected by law enforcement agencies across the state using DNA collection kits provided at no charge by the CODIS Crime Laboratory. [To request the DNA collection kits or if you have any questions please contact the CODIS Crime Laboratory at \(206\)262-6020 or email the laboratory at confel@wsp.wa.gov.](#)

Washington State law (RCW 43.43.754) allows for the collection of a DNA sample for any person convicted of a felony or any of the following non-felonies:

- Stalking
- Harassment
- Communicating with a minor for immoral purposes
- Assault 4 with sexual motivation
- Assault 4 where domestic violence was pleaded and proven
- Custodial sexual misconduct 2

- Patronizing a prostitute
- Sexual misconduct with a minor 2
- Indecent exposure
- Violation of a sexual assault protection order granted under chapter 7.90 RCW
- Anyone required to register as a sex or kidnapping offender
- Failure to register
- Collection from a deceased offender who was previously convicted of a qualifying offense.

Offender DNA samples must be collected on the supplied DNA collection kits and mailed to the CODIS Laboratory at 2203 Airport Way, South, Suite 250, Seattle, WA, 98134.

DNA samples submitted for the purposes of entry into the Offender Index are not considered evidence samples and do not take the place of a suspect reference sample. Offender DNA collection kits should not be used for the collection of DNA samples involved in criminal cases. If reference samples for a criminal case are submitted using these kits, they may be rejected by the laboratory.

DNA profiles generated for the Offender Index are processed by the forensic scientists of the CODIS Laboratory in Seattle. Profiles generated for this index are entered into CODIS and searched against other appropriate indexes. Eligible offender DNA samples are also submitted to NDIS.