



Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory

An Internationally Accredited Laboratory

Quick Reference Guide for Missing Person and Unidentified Human (Remains) Cases

The Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory (NSPCL) Biology Section provides DNA testing for a variety of case types. The NSPCL would like to take this opportunity to provide Nebraska law enforcement agencies with a Quick Reference Guide for the submission and processing of Missing Person and Unidentified Human (Remains) cases.

Please contact the Biology Section of the NSPCL at 402-471-8950 with any questions you may have.

Missing Person and Unidentified Human (Remains) Submission

1. The best reference sample for a missing person is a direct reference sample. These should be obtained whenever possible and include blood, saliva, or hair.
 - a. If a direct reference sample cannot be obtained, the NSPCL is able to test deduced missing person samples. These include intimate items that the missing person is known to have used and the possibility of them being used by another person is highly unlikely (e.g. toothbrush, eyeglasses, etc.).
2. Unidentified human cases can include both human remains and individuals who are unwilling or unable to identify themselves. Please note that the NSPCL is not currently able to perform DNA testing on bone samples.
3. Direct reference/deduced missing person/unidentified human (remains) samples shall be properly packaged and submitted to the NSPCL along with the [NSP750–Evidence Submittal Form](#).
4. Direct reference/ deduced missing person/unidentified human (remains) samples that are submitted to the NSPCL will be analyzed and evaluated for the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) eligibility requirements. The Laboratory Report will notify the Nebraska law enforcement agency as to whether or not the DNA profile was entered into CODIS.

Relative of Missing Person Submission

1. The most useful family reference DNA samples are from close blood relatives such as the missing person's biological mother, father, children, brothers, or sisters. Step parents/siblings are not appropriate for submission.
2. Family reference samples shall be properly packaged and submitted to the NSPCL along with the [NSP750–Evidence Submittal Form](#) **and** the [NSP729–Missing Persons: Family Reference Sample Submission Form](#). It is important to note that the NSP729 form is *NEW*, and it must be completed at the time of collection so that the relatives of the missing person can sign the donor consent portion of the form.
3. Family reference samples that are submitted to the NSPCL will be analyzed and evaluated for the CODIS eligibility requirements. The Laboratory Report will notify the Nebraska law enforcement agency as to whether or not the DNA profile was entered into CODIS.

Laboratory Report Information

1. The National Crime Information Center (NCIC) is used by law enforcement agencies when an individual is reported as missing or when human remains are unidentifiable. Since the NCIC records may only be modified by the submitting law enforcement agency, the NSPCL will provide the following information in the Laboratory Report that needs to be entered into the MIS field in NCIC: laboratory ORI number, type of DNA analysis performed, the CODIS Specimen Category of the DNA profile, and the CODIS Specimen ID number.
2. This information can also be updated in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) by the submitting law enforcement agency.