FORENSIC BIOLOGY CODIS MANUAL

Overview of the CODIS Program		
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OVERVIEW OF THE CODIS PROGRAM

2.1   Forensic Biology CODIS Overview

2.1.1   The Department of Forensic Biology will enter DNA profiles from evidentiary items into LDIS in accordance with departmental, New York State and FBI CODIS procedures. These profiles will be compared to DNA profiles from other Forensic Biology cases. The information in LDIS must either be eligible for entry into the New York State SDIS or be unmarked for upload (such as SDIS-ineligible forensic profiles, or suspect profiles).

2.1.2   The primary requirement for a DNA profile to be entered into SDIS and NDIS is that it be from an item of evidence that reasonably could be expected to contain the alleles of the perpetrator. To attempt to eliminate the possibility of the alleles being from the victim or other non-perpetrator, there must be a good-faith effort to obtain the necessary victim exemplars or other elimination samples. Where appropriate, at least one such effort should be made and documented in the case record (e.g., NYPD paperwork, case contacts, etc.)

NOTE: ==Evidence== DNA profiles are eligible for LDIS only if a crime has been committed. If a case has been deemed to be unfounded by the NYPD, no DNA profile generated in that case is eligible for entry.

2.1.3   Forensic DNA profiles in LDIS will be compared to all other forensic DNA profiles in LDIS as well as all suspect samples in LDIS. Those forensic profiles uploaded to SDIS will be compared to profiles contained within the New York State SDIS. Those forensic DNA profiles eligible for NDIS will be uploaded to NDIS and compared to profiles within NDIS.

2.1.4   Candidate matches will be subjected to a confirmation process, including review of the associated case file(s) and data. After a forensic-forensic, forensic-offender, forensic-arrestee, or forensic-suspect match has been confirmed, the New York City Police Department and the appropriate District Attorney's Office(s) will be notified.

2.1.5   Missing persons candidate matches will be subjected to a confirmation process, including review of the associated case file(s) and data. After the match has been confirmed, the Medical Examiner of record and the OCME Identification Unit will be notified.

2.1.6   The Department of Forensic Biology will track the usefulness of the CODIS databanking program with the assistance of the Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator, Offices of the District Attorney and the New York City Police Department.

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2.2 Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

2.2.1   COmbined DNA Index System (CODIS) is the Federal Bureau of Investigation Program that refers to the entire system of DNA indexes (convicted offender index, forensic index, etc.). CODIS is a hierarchy of DNA databases from forensic laboratories around the United States maintained at the Local, State and National levels. It contains DNA profiles of individuals previously convicted of serious crimes as well as forensic DNA profiles (collected from items of evidentiary value). Suspect profiles may be maintained and searched at the local level only. CODIS' function is to identify DNA matches between convicted individuals and forensic DNA profiles as well as DNA matches between forensic DNA profiles. All 50 states; Washington, DC; Puerto Rico; and 3 federal labs participate in CODIS. The goal of CODIS is to provide investigative assistance to law enforcement investigators in the field.

2.3 LINKAGE

2.3.1   The Department of Forensic Biology maintains a separate legacy database of DNA profiles generated during the analysis of cases. LINKAGE does not contain mixed profiles or DNA profiles from convicted offenders. It does contain DNA profiles from suspects identified during the investigation of offenses. LINKAGE is maintained separately from the CODIS software. Its function is to archive legacy DNA profiles not present in LDIS and make them available for searching.

2.3.2   **As of October 2013 DNA profiles will no longer be entered into LINKAGE. Instead, profiles will be entered into LDIS in the LDIS-only specimen category, the LDIS Suspect Known specimen category or to the SDIS/NDIS eligible categories as appropriate.**

NOTE: See also Sections 4.6 and 9.1.

2.4 CODIS Local DNA Index System (LDIS)

2.4.1   The CODIS Local DNA Index System (LDIS) contains forensic DNA records including forensic mixture profiles, missing person profiles, and relatives of missing person profiles. LDIS contains suspect profiles, which are not eligible for SDIS or NDIS. One function of LDIS is to search for DNA matches involving mixture profiles (not previously identified in LINKAGE) as well as those matches already identified through LINKAGE. It also serves to select eligible profiles for submission to the higher levels of the CODIS hierarchy.

NOTE: See also Section 4.6.

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2.5   CODIS State DNA Index System (SDIS)

2.5.1   The CODIS State DNA Index System (SDIS) contains the DNA records from all local DNA laboratories within the state. SDIS is the next level after LDIS in the CODIS hierarchy. It is the state's repository of DNA identification records and is under control of state authorities. In New York, the SDIS is maintained by the New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center. In most states, including New York, SDIS has a Forensic index and a Convicted Offender index. SDIS typically serves as the central point of contact for the state and for access to NDIS.

2.6   CODIS National DNA Index System (NDIS)

2.6.1   The CODIS National DNA Index System (NDIS) is the FBI-administered centralized system of DNA identification records contributed by all state and local participating laboratories. NDIS is the highest level in the CODIS hierarchy and receives records from the lower levels and supports the searching function of CODIS.

2.7   Retired versions of CODIS

2.7.1   CODIS 5.7.4 was retired in late 2010. It was the system which held the DNA profiles from criminal casework (including suspects). It did not have the capability to work with mitochondrial data or pedigree trees.

2.7.2   The Next-Generation CODIS (CODIS 6.x) system was the analogous database system for Missing Persons cases. It also had three levels (local, state and national). It contained DNA (STR and mitochondrial) data from missing persons, unidentified remains, and relatives of missing persons. It had replaced CODIS+mito 1.4, in 2009.

2.7.3   Data from CODIS 5.7.4 and CODIS 6.x was imported into CODIS 7.0 when that was installed at OCME, uniting the criminal casework and missing persons databases into one.