



**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

# Cold Case Unit

**Unsolved homicides and sexual assaults are some of the most challenging and frustrating investigations facing law enforcement officers, and Attorney General Dave Yost has made it a top priority to offer help.**



The Cold Case Unit, a new effort at BCI, helps local law enforcement agencies initiate a fresh look at unsolved cases. The unit offers new forensic analysis and investigative resources through a multi-disciplinary approach.



## **What makes a case a cold case?**

A cold case homicide involves any investigation that remains unsolved after being reported to law enforcement and in which all significant and viable leads have been exhausted. The category includes the following:

- Unsolved homicide investigations
- Questioned death investigations in which the cause of death is undetermined but suspected to be homicide
- Suspicious missing person cases in which the person is suspected to be the victim of a homicide
- Unidentified remains investigations

### **A Cold Case Sexual Assault Kit Investigation (SAKI)**

involves any unsolved crime of a sexual nature, or an attempted such crime, in which:

- A sexual assault evidence kit was collected as part of the investigation.
- There are no further apparent investigative strategies or unexplored investigatory leads.

PROTECTING ★ THE ★ UNPROTECTED

For more information,  
**visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CCU](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CCU)**  
**or call 1-855-BCI-OHIO.**



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## The Cold Case Unit: a force multiplier

When the Cold Case Unit collaborates on a case, it starts with a case and evidence review and contributes a fresh analysis powered by multiple BCI divisions and disciplines:

### Laboratory | Potential help includes:

- New DNA testing methods, including familial DNA tests and investigative genealogy, which offer ways to identify offenders who have escaped attention — or provide evidence implicating a long-suspected individual
- Advancements in forensic science, which make it possible to locate and analyze new evidence such as DNA and palm prints
- Project SEND and Project SAK, special efforts that focus on finding new leads in old sexual assault cases whose evidence has already been submitted to BCI.

### Criminal Intelligence | Potential help includes:

- Creation of case timelines, databases of evidence and people relevant to the case, and visual aids such as crime scene maps and facial reconstructions
- Analysis of digital forensics, cellphone records, geolocational resources, social media posts, family DNA tracing, etc.
- Addition of case details in relevant databases — Ohio Unsolved Homicides, Ohio Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains — and Project LINK

### Investigation | Potential help includes:

- Interviews and interrogations
- Advanced technological strategies and electronic intercepts
- Polygraphs
- Crime scene reconstruction
- Gunshot trajectory
- Bloodstain pattern analysis
- Digital and cyber forensics
- Victims advocacy
- Exhumations/clandestine graves



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