



**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



# Project LINK

**Project LINK (Linking Individuals Not Known) at the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) offers assistance in cases involving unidentified human remains or a missing person at no cost to requesting entities.**

## **Project LINK: Unidentified remains**

Coroners who have been unable to identify human remains for 30 days are required to submit a DNA specimen to BCI pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 313.08. The details:

- All traditional methods of identification should be exhausted before submitting samples to BCI.
- A coroner's report, dental images/coding, fingerprints, photographs and any other items that may aid in identification also should be submitted to BCI.
- Call 855-BCI-OHIO or send email to [LINK@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](mailto:LINK@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov) to find out what samples are needed to create a DNA profile.

## **What will happen**

- BCI analysts will use case information to create a posting on the Ohio Attorney General's Unidentified Remains webpage, [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/UnidentifiedRemains](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/UnidentifiedRemains).
- The samples will be processed and the DNA profile added to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) so it can be compared to DNA from missing persons. As long as the case is open, the DNA stays in the system and is checked against new DNA entered in the database.
- If a DNA match is made, BCI will contact you with information and to confirm the match. BCI also can provide contact information for the next of kin and victim assistance for the family.

PROTECTING ★ THE ★ UNPROTECTED

[www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BCI](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BCI)



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## Project LINK: Missing persons

Project LINK can be used if someone has been missing longer than 30 days. To seek the services of Project LINK:



- Call 855-BCI-OHIO or email [OhioMCCH@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](mailto:OhioMCCH@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov).
- Provide information related to the case, and analysts at BCI will perform online and database searches for the missing person.
- Gather photos of the missing person, and BCI will post them on the Ohio Attorney General's Missing Persons Website, [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons), and other websites devoted to finding missing people.
- Ask for a free DNA-collection kit containing buccal swabs, instructions on how to take and submit swabs, a supplemental Missing Persons Reporting Form and an authorization for the entry of DNA into a national database.
  - » Use the kit to obtain DNA from relatives of the missing person. (Note: Parents, siblings and children of the missing person would provide the best samples.)
  - » Help obtain dental images/coding, photographs and any other items that might aid in identification, and submit them to BCI.



## What will happen

- The DNA samples will be processed and added to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) so the DNA can be compared to DNA taken from unidentified human remains. As long as the case is open, the DNA stays in the system and is regularly checked against new DNA entered in the database.
- If a DNA match is made, BCI will contact you with information and to confirm the match. BCI also can provide contact information for the next of kin and victim assistance for the family.



**For more information,  
call 855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446) or  
visit [OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov).**

Email: [LINK@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](mailto:LINK@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov)