

Indianapolis Marion County Forensic Services Agency Guide to CODIS

What is CODIS?

CODIS is a criminal justice DNA database created and maintained by the FBI. It may provide investigative leads in criminal investigations. There are three levels of the database: local (LDIS), state (SDIS), and National (NDIS). DNA profiles obtained from evidence items, convicted offender samples and arrestee samples may be entered into the database. I-MCFSA is a local CODIS laboratory and only enters evidence samples. All arrestee and convicted offender profiles are entered and maintained by the Indiana State Police Laboratory.

What DNA profiles from evidence items are eligible for entry into CODIS?

DNA profiles may be entered into the database if they meet the criteria set forth by the FBI. The following are rules that **must** be met for a DNA profile to be entered.

1. There must be documentation that a crime has been committed.
Note: Firearm possession is not a CODIS eligible crime
2. The DNA profile must be obtained from evidence collected from the crime scene.
3. The DNA profile must be associated with a putative perpetrator. Documentation must show why the evidence it is attributable to the perpetrator.
4. If there is a reasonable expectation that the DNA profile could have been deposited on the evidence item independent of the crime, the DNA profile is **not** eligible.

Examples: suspect's clothing, items collected from suspect's home or person

5. DNA profiles from victims, consensual partners, witnesses, etc. are not eligible for entry into CODIS. Elimination standards are required to ensure this does not occur.

****Not all DNA profiles probative to the case are eligible for upload to CODIS****

How do I find out if an individual's DNA profile is in the database as an arrestee or convicted offender?

All arrestee and convicted offender DNA profiles are maintained by the Indiana State Police Laboratory. Please contact the State CODIS Administrator, Kristine Crouch, at 317-921-5357. Provide the individual's name and date of birth.

Why do I need a standard from the individual if they are already in CODIS?

Association between a CODIS eligible DNA profile and an arrestee or convicted offender sample cannot be used for criminal prosecution. CODIS hits must be confirmed with a suspect standard sent to the laboratory for testing. Also, not all DNA profiles developed from evidence items are eligible for CODIS entry.

What is the Biology Unit's request cancellation policy?

Due to the FBI's strict criteria for CODIS eligibility, DNA requests must include proper documentation demonstrating the above listed criteria have been met for CODIS eligibility. This documentation must be provided to the laboratory. If the evidence item is not CODIS eligible, a suspect standard is required in order to proceed with DNA analysis. If CODIS eligibility cannot be documented and no suspect standard is submitted, the request will be cancelled. For the Biology Section to have the correct contact individual for questions, DNA requests should be submitted to the laboratory by the assigned detective.

What if a DNA profile results in a CODIS hit to an individual that is determined to not be a suspect in the case (witness, consensual partner)?

Notify the I-MCFSA CODIS Administrator that the DNA profile is not attributable to a suspect. The CODIS Administrator will remove the DNA profile from the CODIS database.

For CODIS questions, please contact Alaina Kreger, I-MCFSA CODIS Administrator, at 317-327-7996 or Tonya Fishburn, I-MCFSA Alternate CODIS Administrator, at 317-327-4940.