



BCI Biology Testing Protocol

BCI is dedicated to providing timely and accurate testing of all submissions. To meet this goal most effectively in light of increasing demand for DNA testing, limited laboratory resources, and the need to perform DNA testing as timely and effectively as possible for local law enforcement investigations and prosecutions across Ohio; BCI adopts the following protocols for all biology submissions.

1. Provide a Detailed Narrative of the Case Facts

- a. In order to provide an assessment of which items are most likely to provide probative results or a helpful investigative lead, BCI scientists will need an investigative report of the crime with an explanation of the role that analysis of the submitted evidence is expected to play in advancing the investigation.
- b. That report should inform forensic scientists of:
 - The unresolved issues in the case;
 - Where items of evidence were located; and
 - How the evidentiary items relate to the crime in question.
- c. For a DNA profile to be searched in the CODIS database, BCI **must** have documentation to demonstrate that the item from which the DNA profile was obtained is directly related to the crime.
- d. If the DNA request is for the testing of a sexual assault, the status of the investigation (active or closed/inactive) should be included (see Sexual Assault Testing Protocol).

Before testing, BCI strongly recommends that the forensic scientists, lead investigator(s) and the prosecutor confer and identify which items are best-suited for testing. By eliminating items that are unlikely to yield probative results, the remaining items can be tested faster and will have greater evidentiary value.

1. Presumed Limits on Number of Items for DNA Testing:

The types and number of items accepted per submission depend on the case type. Known standards from victim(s) or subject(s) will not count against the number of items that may be submitted. An item is expected to consist of one piece of evidence (*i.e.*, one piece of clothing, swabbing of blood from a single area, or one weapon). If received items are packaged together, the number of items in the package will be considered to be the number of items submitted.

Providing reference standards from subject(s) and all individuals for elimination at time of case submission will reduce the time to obtain a final report.

a. Sexual Assaults:

- The first submission is limited to a sexual assault evidence kit plus one pair of underwear (if not already in the kit) and one condom, if applicable.
- If the kit is negative, additional items such as clothing or bedding may be submitted in a separate submission – limited to 5 items per submission.
- If the kit is positive, no additional items will be accepted for biology, unless case circumstances (such as multiple perpetrators) dictate the need for additional processing.



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b. Homicides:

- Biology evidence is limited to 5 items per submission.
- If probative biology results are obtained, additional items will not be tested unless case circumstances dictate the need for additional processing.
- If no probative results are found on the first submission, the next tier of probative items, (maximum of 5 items) may be submitted.

c. Burglary/property crimes:

- The first submission is limited to 2 items for biology – typically blood sample(s) from the scene, or items left by the perpetrator (cigarette butt, item of clothing, flashlights).
- If a profile is developed, additional items will not be examined, unless case circumstances (such as multiple perpetrators) dictate the need for additional analysis.

d. Other (e.g., robbery, assault): Each submission is limited to 5 items for biology.

e. Criminal Parentage Cases:

Submissions must include a buccal swab standard from mother/alleged mother, father/alleged father, and the child or product of conception (frozen, no preservatives). No partial submissions will be accepted, unless case circumstances dictate (such as deceased mother, questionable maternity or father is unknown).

3. Touch Evidence:

Touch evidence will be processed only on crimes against persons where no other probative evidence exists. Elimination standards must be submitted with touch evidence where appropriate. (e.g., owner of hijacked vehicle). Touch evidence will be processed by the biology section only if it has not been previously processed by another discipline.

4. Re-Evaluation of Presumed Limits

- a. These presumptions may need to be re-evaluated if the unique facts of the case so warrant.
- b. When the requesting law enforcement agency and prosecutor believe that additional DNA testing will be probative, the forensic scientists, the lead investigator(s) and prosecutor must confer together (in person or by telephone) to identify the basis for additional testing.

We invite you to direct your questions concerning the protocol to:

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Thank you for your cooperation in helping BCI to provide consistent, quality service to law enforcement agencies throughout Ohio and look forward to working with you.