



**MIKE DEWINE**

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Protecting Ohio's Families

# When Someone Is Missing

**Project LINK (Linking Individuals Not Known) of the Missing Persons Unit at the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) offers free assistance to those searching for a loved one who has been missing for more than 30 days. (Note: Project LINK can help even if the person has been missing for decades.)**

## What to do

- File a missing person report with the local police.
- Contact BCI at **855-BCI-OHIO** and be prepared to offer as much information as you can about the missing person so analysts can begin searching.
- Share photos of the missing person with BCI.
- Offer items such as the missing person's toothbrush, razor, hairbrush or article of clothing for use in creating the DNA profile.
- Be prepared to donate a DNA sample (*a swab from your mouth*) if you're biologically related to the missing person.
  - Parents, siblings and offspring are the best candidates for creating a genetic profile that can be used in the search.
  - BCI will provide a free DNA collection kit.



## What will happen

- Analysts at BCI will perform online and database searches for the missing person.
- Information and photos of the missing person will be posted on the Ohio Attorney General's Missing Persons Website, **[www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Ohio-MissingPersons](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Ohio-MissingPersons)**, and other websites devoted to finding missing people.
- Relatives' 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.
- If a DNA match is made, law enforcement officers will contact you with information and answer your questions.
- As long as the case is open, the DNA stays in the system and is regularly checked against new DNA entered in the database.



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

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