



**MIKE DEWINE**

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

*Protecting Ohio's Families*

# Project LINK



**Project LINK (Linking Individuals Not Known) of the Missing Persons Unit 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.**

## How to use Project LINK to identify remains

Coroners who have been unable to provide an identity for human remains after 30 days are required to submit a DNA specimen from the remains to BCI pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 313.08.

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

## What will happen

- BCI analysts will use information about the case to create a posting on the Ohio Attorney General's Unidentified Remains Web page, **[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.
- If a DNA match is made, BCI will contact you with information and to confirm the match.
  - BCI can provide contact information for the next of kin and victim assistance for the family.
  - 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)**

## How to use Project LINK to find a missing person

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 send email to **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, **OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Ohio-Missing-Persons**, 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 may 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.
- If a DNA match is made, BCI will contact you with information and to confirm the match.
  - BCI can provide contact information for the next of kin and victim assistance for the family.
  - As long as the case is open, the DNA stays in the system and is regularly checked against new DNA entered in the database.

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For more information, call **855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)**, or visit **OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov**.



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