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.
- 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.