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


- 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.

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.

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