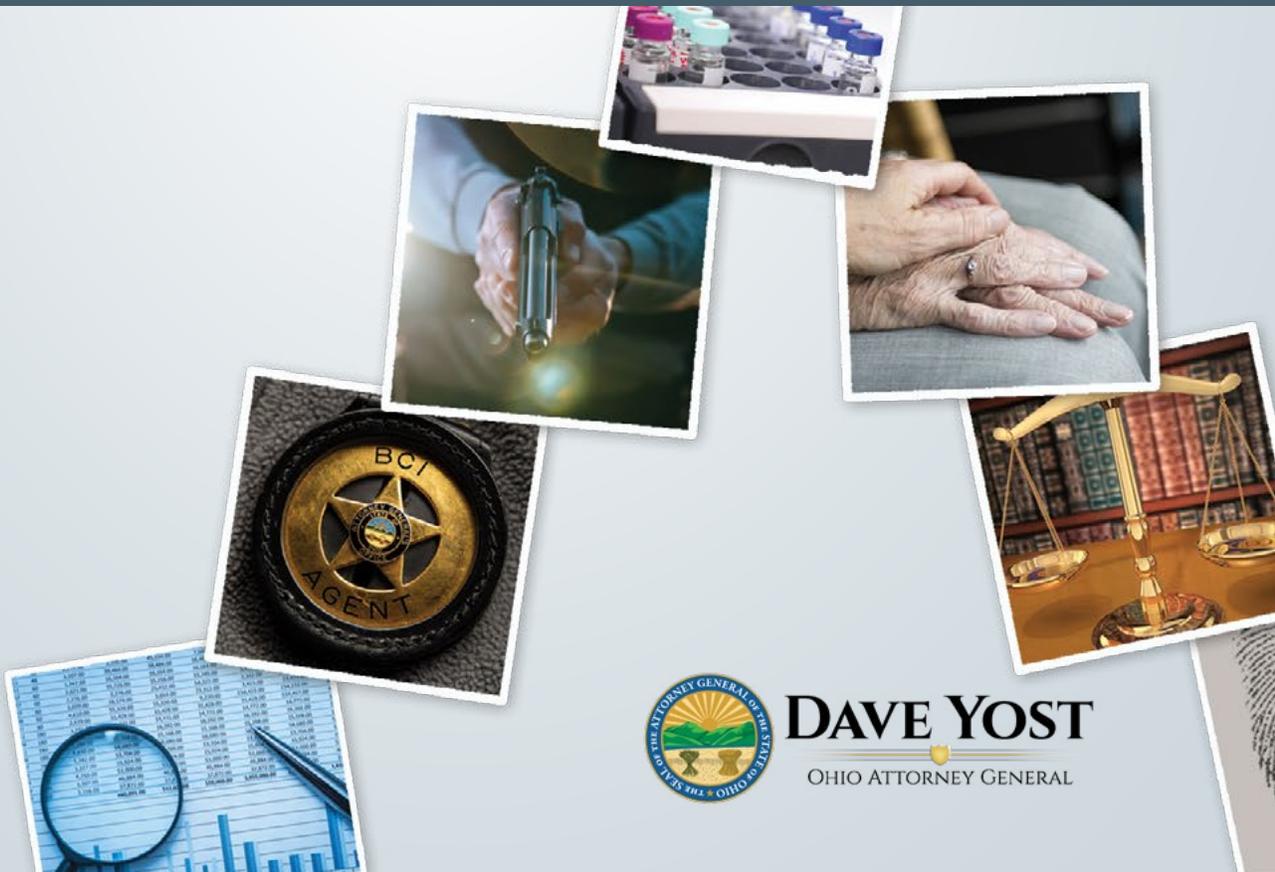


## A RESOURCE GUIDE

High-tech resources and collaborative problem-solving provided free by **the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and other sections of the Ohio Attorney General's Office** can greatly augment the crime-fighting abilities of local law enforcement agencies statewide.

**Simply put, the AGO is a ...**

# FORCE MULTIPLIER



**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



# FROM THE AG

If you're reading this guidebook, you're most likely a peace officer in one of the 900 or so local law enforcement agencies throughout Ohio. The booklet's purpose is simple: to help you understand how the many sections of my office can assist you and your colleagues in the vital work of safeguarding our communities.

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) itself isn't a law enforcement agency. Instead, I like to refer to it as a force multiplier.

We offer highly specific expertise and cutting-edge tools that most agencies simply couldn't afford to have in-house. That's because technology has changed the way crimes are solved, and the latest advances require expensive equipment, skilled operators, and highly trained analysts and scientists.

My office's resources augment the crime-fighting ability of local law enforcement agencies and can make the difference between having a dangerous criminal behind bars or out on the streets. Furthermore, these resources are available free to agencies of all sizes, from township police units with one or two officers to major metropolitan departments.

There is perhaps no better example of the force multiplier concept than the Cold Case Unit at the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, an arm of the AGO.

Law enforcement agencies rarely have the luxury of dedicating a team to unsolved homicides, unsolved sexual assaults or decades-old missing-persons cases. These cases are time- and resource-intensive, as they typically require old evidence to be processed using modern technology.

BCI's cross-disciplinary approach is yielding excellent results. It is rooted in collaboration with the originating agency and involves resources from the bureau's experts in the Laboratory, Criminal Intelligence Unit and Special Investigations Unit, and often other units as well.

The majority of law enforcement resources available through my office come from or somehow involve BCI — but not all of them. Other AGO units also provide resources, including some that directly help law enforcement officers fight crime, some that help advocates support crime victims, and some that help county prosecutors achieve justice.

None of the sections under the AGO umbrella takes over an agency's case. Instead, we want to work cooperatively to arrest and prosecute the violent criminals threatening our communities.

The key for my office is making sure that law enforcement agencies are aware of the services we offer. From there, all an agency has to do is request assistance. The problem is, agencies don't always realize the full scope of what we provide. And that's the reason we've produced this booklet.

I encourage you to look it over and talk about it with your colleagues. Some material might ring familiar to law enforcement veterans, but even longtime chiefs and sheriffs are likely to find something surprising — a resource or an expert or a training opportunity that can help you in future crime-fighting efforts.

My office is here to serve law enforcement. The more that you and your colleagues know, the better we can do that.



Yours,

  
**Dave Yost**  
Ohio Attorney General

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

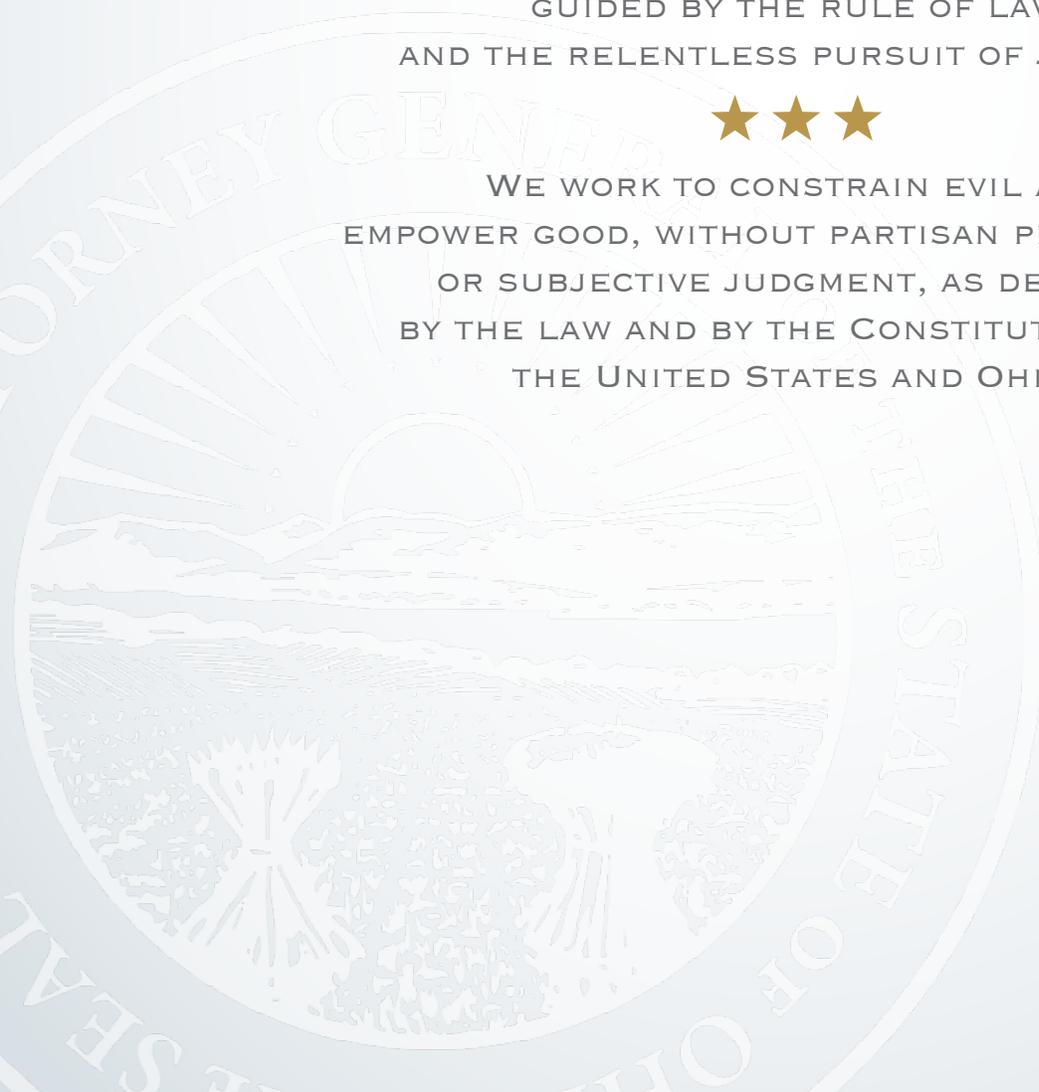
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE PROTECTS OHIO  
AND ITS FAMILIES.



OUR ACTIONS ARE DRIVEN BY THEIR INTERESTS,  
GUIDED BY THE RULE OF LAW  
AND THE RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF JUSTICE.



WE WORK TO CONSTRAIN EVIL AND  
EMPOWER GOOD, WITHOUT PARTISAN PREFERENCE  
OR SUBJECTIVE JUDGMENT, AS DEFINED  
BY THE LAW AND BY THE CONSTITUTIONS OF  
THE UNITED STATES AND OHIO.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>SPECIALIZED TEAMS AND TECHNICAL TOOLS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Crime scene investigations .....	4
Cyber crimes .....	5
Forensic accounting .....	6
Criminal intelligence .....	6
Technical operations .....	7
Polygraph testing .....	8
Forensic audio and video services .....	8
<b>CRIME LAB SERVICES</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Firearms and NIBIN .....	10
DNA testing and CODIS .....	11
A serial killer identified .....	11
On the forefront of DNA technology .....	12
Drug chemistry testing .....	13
MX908s: Testing for drugs in the field — in a matter of minutes .....	14
The first case of rainbow fentanyl .....	14
Latent prints, trace evidence, questioned documents .....	15
<b>SPECIALIZED INVESTIGATIONS</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Cold-case homicides and sexual assaults .....	16
One cold case unlocks another .....	16
Support for crime victims available through AGO .....	17
Officer-involved critical incidents .....	18
Special Prosecutions Section ensures impartiality in cases of all kinds .....	19
Special victims .....	20
AGO gets justice for Alzheimer's victim .....	20
Task force takes down Columbus trafficking operation .....	21
Narcotics .....	22
Medicaid provider fraud / patient abuse and neglect .....	23
Patient nightmare: Threatened by nurse .....	23
Organized crime .....	24
Public corruption .....	24
Environmental enforcement .....	25
<b>TRAINING, CONFERENCES, EQUIPMENT, GRANTS, MEDIA</b> .....	<b>26</b>
Training .....	26
OPOTA Portal .....	27
Conferences .....	29
Equipment .....	30
Miscellaneous .....	30
Contact information .....	31

# INTRODUCTION

## HERE TO HELP

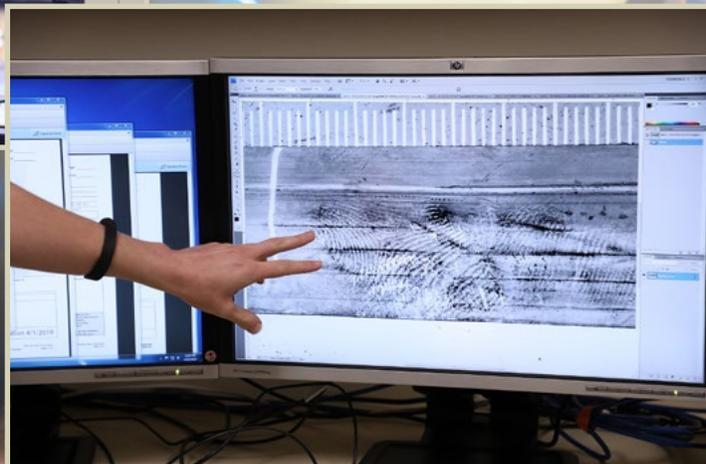
**T**his booklet isn't intended to be an encyclopedic catalog of every law-enforcement-related service provided through the Attorney General's Office. Rather, it attempts to show the broad range of tools and expertise that are available, with a particular focus on resources that might not be widely known.

Three examples from the Bureau of Criminal Investigation illustrate the point:

- ★ **The Forensic Dive Team**, part of the bureau's Crime Scene Unit, assists local law enforcement agencies by recovering submerged evidence.
- ★ **The Forensic Accounting Unit**, by tracking the flow of money in criminal investigations, has helped solve major murder, narcotics and public corruption cases.
- ★ **The Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) Response Team**, which handles more police-involved shootings than any other agency in Ohio, ensures a comprehensive, impartial and prompt investigation.

There are scores of other examples from BCI. An abbreviated list of lesser-known resources might include units focused on cyber crimes, drug chemistry, cutting-edge DNA testing, missing persons, surveillance and technical operations, and other critical areas.

And the AGO's crime-fighting resources certainly aren't limited to BCI. For example, dedicated units within the Attorney General's Office work with local officials (as well as BCI) on cases involving



human trafficking, organized crime, elder abuse, crimes against children, public corruption, environmental abuse and Medicaid provider fraud, among others.

Furthermore, the Special Prosecutions Section may be appointed by a local jurisdiction to try a case, and the Crime Victim Services Section can ensure that survivors receive the emotional and financial support they need.

Finally, there's the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, another arm of the AGO and an essential source of advanced education for peace officers throughout their careers.

The material in this booklet is organized under four broad categories. The first two sections look at specialized teams and technical tools, as well as crime lab services. The third section focuses on the types of investigations that BCI and the AGO take on, and the assistance that Special Prosecutions and Crime Victim Services can provide in these cases. And the fourth section highlights ways that the AGO can help law enforcement agencies through training, equipment and grants.

For the sake of brevity, some resources that are considered to be well known in the law enforcement community are not listed in this booklet. A case in point is BCI's Identification Division. Although the division plays an absolutely vital function for law enforcement, peace officers are generally well aware of its role as Ohio's central repository for criminal records, including biometric information such as fingerprints, palm prints and photographs.

The Attorney General's Office is constantly working to support and strengthen Ohio's law enforcement community. The resources that follow are intended to do exactly that. They're free and available for the asking. But the first step is knowing what resources to ask for. The brief time you spend reviewing this booklet today might save you countless hours down the road.



## Please ask

### The take-home message is this:

The Attorney General's Office can assist law enforcement agencies in ways they might not realize. If you think we can help with a certain case, please ask. The AGO Help Desk can be reached at 800-282-0515. Law enforcement agencies requesting assistance from BCI should call the bureau's 24/7 hotline at 855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446) or send an email to [BCI@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:BCI@OhioAGO.gov).



# SPECIALIZED TEAMS AND TECHNICAL TOOLS

## CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

**BCI's Crime Scene Unit** helps local law enforcement process felony crime scenes for physical evidence. The unit can respond 24/7 to homicides, questioned deaths, officer-involved shootings, bank robberies, explosions and other felonies requiring specialized evidence recovery. Members of the unit are highly trained, with many having graduated from the National Forensic Academy and holding forensic certifications through the International Association of Identification.

The unit is often requested to reconstruct events at crime scenes, as well as perform shooting incident reconstruction and bloodstain pattern analyses. Agents use a variety of technological tools to document crime scenes, including advanced photography, 3D laser scanning, computer-based diagramming and drones.

Agents routinely provide expert testimony in high-profile cases throughout the state and train law enforcement agencies in forensics. In 2022, the unit began supplementing its special agents with civilian crime scene technicians, thereby expanding its ability to attract the best talent beyond those who are sworn law enforcement officers.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Ready to respond

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the Crime Scene Unit worked:

- ★ 93 homicides
- ★ 56 officer-involved critical incidents
- ★ 55 questioned deaths
- ★ 89 miscellaneous cases (robberies/burglaries, assaults, sex offenses)



# CYBER CRIMES

**Digital forensics** is one of the most demanding and technologically advanced fields of criminal investigation. Today, almost every case has a digital component. BCI's Cyber Crime Unit consists of special agents and computer forensic specialists who can provide invaluable assistance to local officials in investigating and prosecuting criminal cases that have a digital element.

The unit's investigations encompass murder, sexual assault, fraud, theft, child sexual abuse and exploitation materials, and other crimes committed with the aid of digital devices. A majority of the investigations involve violent crimes, and more than half involve children.

The Cyber Crime Unit's involvement at the outset of a case can help ensure efficient seizure, proper submission, thorough forensic analysis and the preservation of volatile information that, if not captured quickly and correctly, can easily be lost. Cyber Crime personnel can also assist with online investigations, the drafting and execution of search warrants pursuant to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, on-scene retrieval of digital information to provide actionable investigative intelligence, and the expert interpretation of digital evidence.

## Specialized services:

- ★ Forensic analysis of cellphones, computers, external drives, memory cards, cameras, motor-vehicle infotainment systems, gaming systems, etc.
- ★ Search warrant preparation, crime scene response and on-site previewing of evidence.
- ★ Expert testimony and interpretation of forensic evidence.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### Underwater help

**The Forensic Dive Team**, an extension of the Crime Scene Unit, is available to help local agencies recover submerged evidence. The team has expertise and equipment to locate human remains, weapons, tools and other items. BCI and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency collaborate on dive team operations, enhancing both entities' work in documenting environmental crimes. To request 24-hour assistance, call the BCI hotline at 855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446).

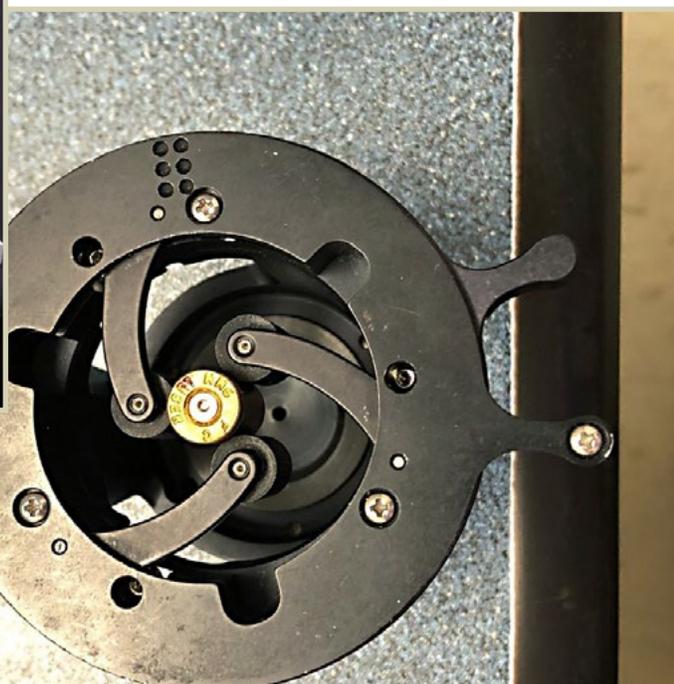
# FORENSIC ACCOUNTING

Forensic accounting is, essentially, **following the numbers** to see where money has been spent or brought in — or where it went missing. Because many crimes involve a financial element, the Forensic Accounting Unit has helped Ohio law enforcement agencies with major murder, narcotics, public corruption and investment fraud cases. Likewise, the unit has aided investigations of mass theft stemming from increasingly diverse fraud schemes.

The services are performed by highly qualified and credentialed accounting experts. The Forensic Accounting Unit continually increases its technical expertise through training and participation in professional organizations and regularly incorporates new techniques, knowledge and tools into its practices and procedures. The unit shares its knowledge with law enforcement agencies to develop their financial investigation capabilities and advertise the unit's availability to assist as subject-matter experts.



**BCI's wide range of resources includes a forensic artist who is able to create facial reconstructions of unidentified remains, and NIBIN stations at three labs across the state.**



# CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE

The Criminal Intelligence Unit focuses on **assisting investigations** involving major crimes, drug trafficking, missing persons, fugitive apprehension and cold cases. It also can assist agencies in following up on gun-crime leads provided through the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).

CIU's most requested assistance relates to cellphone and digital forensic analysis, data mapping and analysis, and subject intelligence.

The unit uses powerful tools to collect, process and analyze data to provide actionable intelligence that can solve crimes and predict patterns related to criminal activity.

Some of the unit's specialized services include:

- ★ Providing analysis of cellphone records, geolocation resources, social media posts, genetic family links, etc.
- ★ Creating case timelines, databases of evidence and people relevant to a case, and visual aids, such as crime scene



**BCI's Technical Operations Unit provides direct field support for law enforcement agencies through the installation and use of surveillance equipment. Additionally, the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC) maintains numerous covert and overt surveillance systems to assist with criminal investigations.**

maps and facial reconstructions.

- ★ Operating the Ohio Missing Persons database and Project LINK (Linking Individuals Not Known) to help locate missing persons.
- ★ Operating the Ohio Unsolved Homicides database and the Unidentified Remains database.
- ★ Helping prosecutors and law enforcement draw media attention to cases to generate new tips and information.
- ★ Serving as the Ohio law enforcement liaison to Interpol, the world's largest police organization.



## TECHNICAL OPERATIONS

Among other things, **BCI's Technical Operations Unit** provides direct field support for law enforcement agencies through the installation and use of technology such as body wires and other audio and video recording devices, wiretaps and GPS tracking devices. Operations can be covert or overt. The unit also trains state and local law enforcement in the use and deployment of surveillance equipment, and facilitates remote child-victim testimony and depositions.

The Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission, part of the Attorney General's Office, also maintains numerous covert and overt surveillance systems to assist with criminal investigations. When these systems aren't deployed to an OOCIC-organized task force, the commission works with BCI's Technical Operations Unit to make them available to local law enforcement.

# POLYGRAPH TESTING

This unit conducts **high-quality polygraph examinations** of suspects and witnesses for local law enforcement and prosecutors throughout Ohio. The unit also provides expert testimony in criminal cases when jointly requested by the prosecution and defense. The testing employs computerized polygraph instruments to monitor a person's physiological responses to questions and help determine truthfulness. The unit emphasizes consistent, thorough and objective analysis.

# FORENSIC AUDIO AND VIDEO SERVICES

**The Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission** offers a wide range of forensic audio and video services to all Ohio law enforcement agencies at no cost. The OOCIC Forensic A/V Lab consists of highly trained and certified audio/video analysts who work in concert with investigators and prosecutors to provide a thorough and unbiased analysis of audio/video evidence that goes well beyond the capabilities of a single software tool. Analysts often testify in court proceedings as expert witnesses.

A/V services include the creation of video timelines, multi-camera synchronized presentations, audio/video/image

enhancement, forensic image comparisons, audio/video authenticity, animated presentations, and the conversion of outdated media from cold cases, including VHS, 8mm film, cassettes, micro-cassettes, photos to DVD, MP4, WAV and TIFF. Analysts can also provide consultation on audio/video evidence provided by an opposing side.

Contact OOCIC Senior Forensic Audio/Video Analyst David Loomis at David.Loomis@OhioAGO.gov or (614) 277-1029, or OOCIC Executive Director Rocky Nelson at Rocky.Nelson@OhioAGO.gov or (614) 277-1000.



**A/V services available from the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC) include the creation of video timelines, multi-camera synchronized presentations, audio/video/image enhancement, forensic image comparisons, audio/video authenticity, animated presentations, and the conversion of outdated media.**



# CRIME LAB SERVICES

The **BCI laboratory system** is a full-service lab with locations in Bowling Green, Richfield and London. Evidence can be submitted to each of these sites, as well as to BCI offices in Boardman (projected to open December 2023) and Athens. BCI performs laboratory services at no cost to submitting agencies. It's important to note that each unit of the crime lab has specific policies outlining how law enforcement agencies should submit evidence. The policies can be found at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BCI/LabDivision](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BCI/LabDivision). Once laboratory testing is complete, the lab sends the investigating officer an email directing him or her to the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway to retrieve the lab report(s). The evidence items may then be picked up from the lab for long-term storage by the law enforcement agency.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Using OHLEG saves time when submitting evidence

The Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) has a link to the program PreLog, where law enforcement agencies can electronically submit case information before bringing in or submitting any type of evidence to BCI. This function saves time during the evidence reception process. For more information regarding OHLEG or to request access to OHLEG, email [OHLEGsupport@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:OHLEGsupport@OhioAGO.gov).



# FIREARMS AND NIBIN

BCI scientists in the Firearms Unit conduct examinations to tie ammunition to particular guns and to recover serial numbers that criminals have attempted to obliterate. The ability to compare toolmarks on firearm-related evidence — whether gathered from a crime scene or obtained by a test-fire of a confiscated gun — is vital to linking gun crimes that weren't known to be related. BCI is part of the **National Integrated Ballistics Information Network**, a huge database run by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) that houses millions of digital images of spent cartridge cases submitted by local, state and federal agencies from across the country. In 2023, BCI added five NIBIN stations — for a total of six — at three of its labs around the state. The expansion means gun crime evidence can be entered into the database for law enforcement agencies far more easily now. If a submitted cartridge case matches an image in NIBIN, law enforcement is notified of the potential match and provided associated information as an investigative lead.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### Using NIBIN and following up on leads

The NIBIN process begins when a law enforcement agency submits a fired cartridge case to BCI, where a digital image of the cartridge is entered into the database. If a possible match is identified, information about the previous incident(s) is forwarded to the submitting agency.

- ★ Prior to submitting physical evidence to BCI, an agency should complete a PreLog application in OHLEG.
- ★ Submissions should be made to the closest BCI evidence receiving location (Athens, Richfield, Boardman, Bowling Green and London).

Submission policies are available on the Attorney General's Office website. (Navigate to BCI/Laboratory Division/Submission Policies for Law Enforcement.)

The NIBIN technology works in



conjunction with existing BCI laboratory services. When a law enforcement agency submits a cartridge case for comparison in NIBIN, the firearm from which the case came can also be swabbed and processed by BCI forensic scientists for possible DNA evidence. Once an agency receives its NIBIN results, it might have a good investigative lead but still need more information to further develop the lead. If your agency does not participate in a Crime Gun Intelligence Center, BCI's Criminal Intelligence Unit can assist by conducting additional subject and location research to provide actionable intelligence. This workup produces information such as police reports, associated individuals, mapping or geospatial data, link charts and timelines — some or all

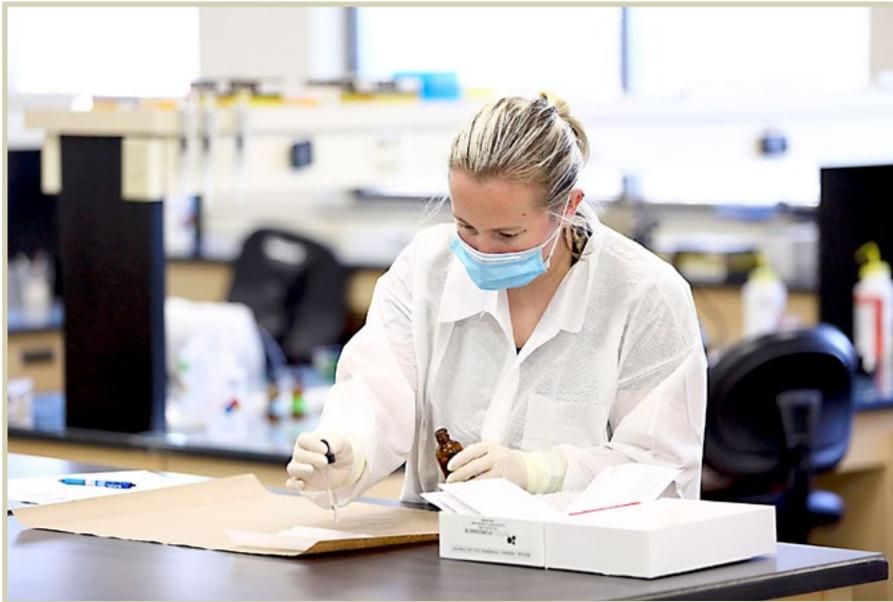
of which might yield additional leads or prove helpful to other agencies that receive a NIBIN result from the same gun. BCI might also be able to provide contacts to other departments, provide investigative assistance or connect you through relationships to other agencies

To request intelligence assistance related to your NIBIN report, contact the BCI Criminal Intelligence Unit at 740-845-2406 or email [Intel@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:Intel@OhioAGO.gov).

### Learning to make the most of NIBIN

The AGO is helping to educate Ohio law enforcement officers about how to use NIBIN.

A video series that is available online through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy explains how to collect and submit evidence and how to properly swab firearms for DNA evidence. And beginning next year, a NIBIN course will be a requirement of the Continuing Professional Training curriculum that all Ohio peace officers must take each year. The course will teach officers about NIBIN's capabilities and how DNA and NIBIN work hand in hand.



## DNA TESTING AND CODIS

In the 35+ years since DNA was first used to identify criminal suspects, the technology has steadily expanded. For law enforcement, this means cases that even just a few years ago were stalled by insufficient or degraded DNA evidence can now be revisited in the lab, and they can be pursued in many ways using minute quantities of genetic material.

Forensic scientists in BCI's DNA Unit test 24 areas of DNA to analyze body fluids and cellular material left at crime scenes. They compare the DNA profiles they produce to DNA obtained from known individuals, such as potential suspects, or with DNA cataloged in the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). BCI also performs male-specific DNA testing on the Y chromosome, which is passed on from father to son. This is helpful in cases involving a large amount of DNA from a female and a small amount of DNA from a male. The DNA Unit's work provides investigative answers in cases of homicide, sexual assault and other crimes.

BCI's CODIS Unit serves as the state repository for DNA samples lawfully collected from crime scenes and felony offenders. The unit develops DNA profiles from samples submitted by law enforcement agencies and uploads the results to CODIS.

CODIS contains digital records of DNA collected from crime scenes, convicted felons and felony arrestees throughout the United States. The powerful tool can link perpetrators to crimes and link crimes committed by the same person, even when that person's identity remains unknown.

Statewide searches and national database uploads run by the CODIS Unit's scientists are key to finding answers in many unsolved crimes. The DNA logged in CODIS results in hundreds of leads a month — information that BCI passes to local law enforcement agencies to further investigations of homicides, rapes and other criminal cases.

## A serial killer identified

BCI had been hunting for **Samuel Legg** for years, although they didn't know his identity. CODIS DNA records had linked the same unknown man to three murders: the 1992 killing of Sharon Kedzierski at an Austintown truck stop, the 1996 killing of Victoria Collins at a Wood County truck stop and the murder of Julie A. Konkol under similar circumstances the next year in Illinois.



Looking for the perpetrator of these brutal killings, the Criminal Intelligence Unit repeatedly developed suspects and the CODIS Unit would run their DNA. But time and again, CODIS returned no hits.

After familial DNA testing became an option, a special council at BCI approved its use in the case. The test searches CODIS for DNA that is so similar to a perpetrator's that it might come from a family member, and this search led to Legg. A DNA sample from him confirmed the match.

Legg was arrested in 2019, initially on charges from a 1997 rape in Medina County — a crime whose DNA profile matched that of the serial killings. The former long-haul truck driver also is suspected in the murder of his 14-year-old stepdaughter, Angela Hicks, in 1990, and authorities suspect he committed more crimes.

But the prosecution of Legg has been complicated by his mental state. He suffers from schizophrenia and neurosyphilis and is involuntarily committed to a mental institution.

## On the forefront of DNA technology

It wasn't long ago that forensic scientists relied only on DNA extracted from the nucleus of a cell to produce a DNA profile. The problem was, unadulterated nuclear DNA wasn't always available from a crime scene, since it is relatively fragile and tends to degrade easily. Furthermore, some types of cells — especially mature red blood cells and older skin, hair and nail cells — don't even have a nucleus.

BCI's crime lab got around that problem when it expanded its testing a few years ago to include DNA found in a cell's mitochondria, a part of the cell that exists outside the nucleus.

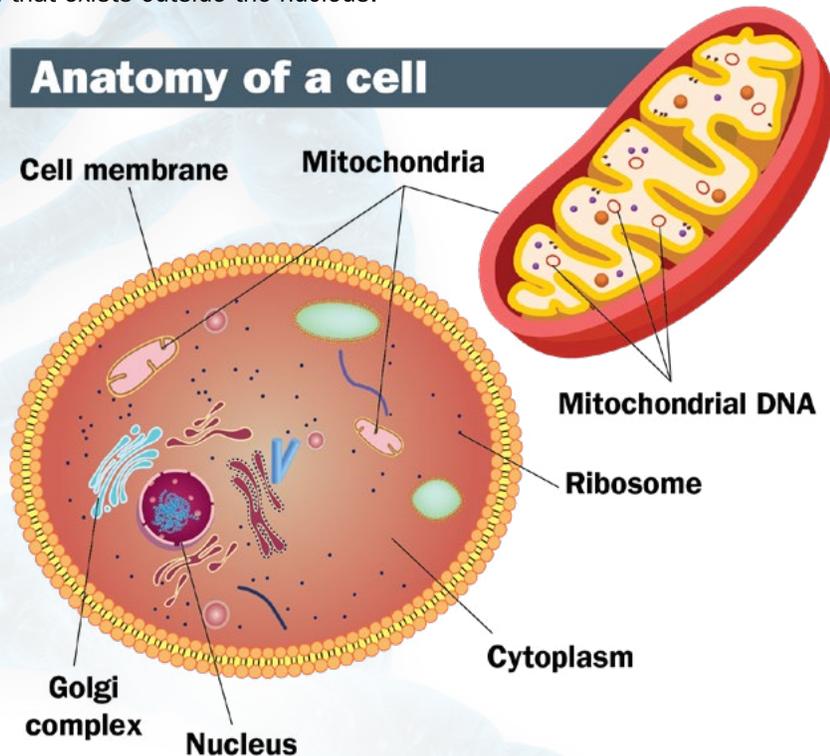
**Mitochondrial DNA** has some obvious advantages: There's a lot more of it than nuclear DNA, and it doesn't break down nearly as fast. But unlike nuclear DNA, which is inherited from the mother and father, mitochondrial DNA is inherited from the mother only.

Even so, it is a critical piece in tracing a person's ancestry and determining the maternal line of descent, and it has proved to be an invaluable tool in cases involving missing persons or unidentified remains.

Mitochondrial DNA testing is made possible by a process known as massively parallel sequencing, which allows millions of sections of DNA from a single sample to be sequenced in unison rather than one at a time. BCI is one of a handful of state crime labs that is certified to conduct the testing.

One case investigated by BCI involved a woman and her two children who had been missing since 2002. It was believed that the woman, ultimately identified as Stephanie Van Nguyen, used her vehicle to drive herself and her children into the Ohio River. A femur bone removed for the submerged vehicle was submitted to BCI after another bordering state was unsuccessful in obtaining a DNA profile. Through BCI casework and mitochondrial testing, a DNA profile was obtained and then compared to a known family member's DNA. Nguyen was identified but the children are still considered missing.

### Anatomy of a cell



### DID YOU KNOW?

#### DNA collection status report

The number of leads that CODIS can generate depends on the amount of information in the database. So it is crucial — and required by Ohio law — that law enforcement agencies collect DNA samples from all adults arrested, charged or convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor arising from certain felonies, as well as juveniles who are found by a judge to have committed similar offenses. BCI provides law enforcement agencies a tool in OHLEG (the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway) to identify which DNA collections their agency has failed to send to BCI. The Negative Offender DNA Flag Report is simple to run, and the CODIS Unit encourages law enforcement agencies to use it regularly. Contact [CODIS@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:CODIS@OhioAGO.gov) for assistance.



# DRUG CHEMISTRY TESTING

**The Drug Chemistry Unit** serves Ohio law enforcement by providing accurate and timely analysis of evidence to determine whether illegal or harmful substances are present. A majority of the unit's caseload involves drug analysis for the identification of controlled substances, including methamphetamine, fentanyl, prescription drugs, heroin, cocaine, LSD, designer drugs, and quantitative drug analysis of THC content related to marijuana. **In 2022**, the unit identified fentanyl in 9,151 items submitted by law enforcement, making up 22.1% of all drug analyses. The proliferation of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids — often part of complex drug mixtures — poses a particular challenge to Ohio law enforcement. The Drug Chemistry Unit plays a crucial role in fighting this scourge by warning agencies when new variants are detected.



METHAMPHETAMINE ...	15,750
FENTANYL .....	9,151
COCAINE .....	5,379
PARA-FLUOROFENTANYL ...	2,634
TRAMADOL .....	1,392
HEROIN .....	1,382
BUPRENORPHINE .....	1,056
OXYCODONE .....	724
ALPRAZOLAM .....	482
CLONAZOLAM .....	471

## MX908s: Testing for drugs in the field — in a matter of minutes

The AGO has continued to expand a rapid-drug-testing pilot program at agencies across the state. The program was launched in conjunction with BCI in 2021 using federal funds.

The heart of the program is a cutting-edge device called MX908, a portable mass spectrometer that makes it possible for law enforcement officers to test suspected drugs in the field in a matter of minutes. The pilot program is focused on identifying methamphetamine, cocaine and marked pharmaceutical pills. Until recently, such an analysis could be conducted only in a laboratory and typically took weeks.

BCI has delivered MX908 devices to agencies around the state. Each device is hosted by a single agency and is intended to be shared with neighboring agencies whose officers have been trained. The goal is to have enough MX908s so access to one is never more than an hour's drive away.



## The first case of rainbow fentanyl

In May 2023, BCI's Drug Chemistry Unit confirmed the first appearance in Ohio of "rainbow fentanyl," the deadly colorful pills designed to resemble candy that drug traffickers are using to drive addiction among young people. More than 1,000 of the brightly colored pills were seized by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office as part of a Columbus-area drug-trafficking investigation. The Drug Chemistry Unit had previously identified fentanyl in multiple forms, including colored powders, but this was the first instance of rainbow fentanyl. The finding wasn't unexpected; months earlier the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration had sounded a national alarm about rainbow fentanyl's presence in more than half of the U.S. states.



## LATENT PRINTS

The Latent Print Unit at BCI examines evidence for the presence of finger, palm and foot prints using visual, chemical and physical methods. Latent prints are lifted from surfaces of objects that are inadvertently touched or handled by a person. The unit utilizes two voluminous biometric databases: the Ohio **Automated Fingerprint Identification System** (AFIS) and the FBI's **Next Generation Identification** (NGI) system. They hold millions of records of prints, other biometric information and criminal histories. BCI also maintains an **Unsolved Latent Database** (ULDB), which runs daily searches looking for matches in the larger AFIS.

## TRACE EVIDENCE

The Trace Evidence Unit examines an array of trace evidence in the BCI Bowling Green Laboratory. One subset of trace evidence analysis focuses on gunshot residue, which can be used to determine the presence of distinctive chemicals related to the discharge of a firearm. This analysis is performed at BCI's Richfield Laboratory.

## QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS

Using specialized instrumentation and light sources, BCI scientists in the Questioned Documents Unit can determine whether the original content of a document has been altered, obliterated or otherwise changed, and can examine handwriting for authorship. The unit also performs quality-assurance tests on instant lottery games for the Ohio Lottery.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

### Tips for handling evidence

BCI's Laboratory Division offers instruction for law enforcement personnel about evidence handling in specific cases as well as general training. Contact a BCI Laboratory supervisor for staff availability. To request training in evidence handling, contact BCI.

# SPECIALIZED INVESTIGATIONS

**BCI's Investigative Services Division** provides expert, critical help in cases involving specialized subject matter or victims who require special law enforcement treatment — for example, children, the elderly, or people who have been trafficked for sex or labor. Additionally, the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Section is available upon request to help prosecute these and other cases, and the Crime Victim Services Section can provide support for victims inside and outside the courtroom.

## COLD-CASE HOMICIDES AND SEXUAL ASSAULTS

BCI's Cold Case Unit, created in 2020, focuses on helping law enforcement agencies take a fresh look at unsolved homicides and sexual assaults, using forensic technology and criminal intelligence that weren't available at the time of the crime. For example, scientists using new DNA testing can identify offenders who have long stayed hidden, and can pull fingerprints or palm prints from materials where it was once assumed impossible.

In tackling cold cases, the unit employs a multidisciplinary approach. Each re-examination involves the originating law enforcement agency as well as members of multiple BCI divisions, including:

- ★ Special agents, who are veteran investigators dedicated solely to the unit.
- ★ Forensic scientists from BCI's Laboratory Division, who bring advanced DNA testing and other tools to the table.
- ★ Criminal Intelligence Unit analysts, who establish case evidence and timelines and use investigative genealogy methods to help identify suspects.

In addition, the Cold Case Unit partners with the BCI Laboratory Division on two sexual-assault-focused projects aimed at local law enforcement agencies.

- ★ **Project Send:** The Cold Case Unit and the lab are working to notify agencies of thousands of older sexual assault cases in which new technological advancements could mean new leads.
- ★ **Project SAK:** For cases in which a DNA profile was developed from a sexual assault evidence kit, the Cold Case Unit and the lab are going back to the original agencies to alert them that additional investigative or laboratory strategies could make a difference in bringing the perpetrator to justice.



### One cold case unlocks another

In 2020, investigators from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office asked BCI's Cold Case Unit to work with them to re-examine the 1991 murder of Alma Lake. Their request proved doubly rewarding.

An advanced DNA analysis run by BCI's lab — advanced technology that wasn't available at the time of the murder — ultimately linked Columbus resident Robert Edwards as a suspect. As it turned out, it also linked him to a similar slaying in 1996 in neighboring Licking County.

Lake's death closely mirrored that of Michelle Dawson-Pass. Both had been raped before being killed; both were left naked and unconcealed in a grassy area. Edwards was found guilty of two counts of murder and one count each of aggravated murder and rape. He was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 45 years.



## Support for crime victims available through AGO

Law enforcement agencies should be aware that the Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Section provides funding and services to aid crime victims, as well as training for professionals who assist them, grants for victim service providers, and crime prevention programs for Ohio communities.

One of section's most important tools is the Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Fund, which reimburses the costs of medical expenses, crime-scene cleanup, counseling and other services that crime victims and their families need in order to heal and move forward with their lives.

The section participates in the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system, which helps crime victims and other concerned citizens gain access to information about the criminal cases and custody status of offenders. VINE provides information on the status of offenders within the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Ohio Department of Youth Services and county jails.

PROTECTING THE UNPROTECTED

Ohio Attorney General's  
**Crime Victims Section**

HELPING VICTIMS RECOVER

As a victim of crime, you may qualify for compensation, including:

- Medical costs.
- Counseling for immediate family members of victims of homicide, sexual assault or domestic violence.
- Lost wages.
- Costs incurred by family members of homicide victims to attend criminal proceedings.
- Financial support for dependents of homicide victims.
- Funeral and burial expenses.

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES  
30 E. Broad St., 23rd floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-466-5610 | 800-582-2877  
[www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov)

DAVE YOST  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



## DID YOU KNOW?



### A book every agency should have

The Attorney General's Office has published and will continue to update a book outlining the recommended protocol for any agency that plans to investigate an officer-involved critical incident and/or request BCI assistance. "Best Practices for Investigating an Officer-Involved Critical Incident" includes instructions on requesting help, details on what to expect when BCI is called in, and an explanation of the requesting agency's role and the records that should be gathered for the investigation. Written by BCI Special Agent-In-Charge Mark Kollar, the book is designed to ensure that proper steps are taken to maintain the integrity of the scene, to gather the evidence and statements, and to safeguard the fairness of the investigation.

To download the free resource, go to [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BestPractices](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BestPractices).

## OFFICER-INVOLVED CRITICAL INCIDENTS

When an Ohio law enforcement officer is involved in a shooting or other critical incident, the officer's agency can ask BCI to send a response team to ensure a comprehensive, impartial and prompt investigation. Depending on the situation and the agency's request, the BCI team could include agents from the Special Investigations, Crime Scene, Cyber Crimes, Narcotics and Criminal Intelligence units.

The Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) response team investigates more police shootings than any other agency in Ohio. As a fact-finder, the response team does not determine whether use of force was legally justified or make recommendations regarding charges. At the conclusion of an investigation, BCI provides a copy of its findings to the appropriate prosecutor's office for review. The prosecutor then determines whether or how the case proceeds.

Because prosecutors work with local law enforcement on a daily basis, jurisdictions frequently ask the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Section to review and prosecute officer-involved shootings to avoid conflict-of-interest claims.

BCI defines an officer-involved critical incident as:

- ★ The discharge of a firearm or other use of force by a law enforcement officer (or other official conducting an enforcement activity) that results in human injury and/or death.
- ★ Any incident in which a law enforcement officer suffers serious physical harm or death at the hands of another.
- ★ The death of a person while in custody, defined as “a situation when there has been a formal arrest or when, under the totality of the circumstances, there has been a restraint on freedom of movement of the degree associated with formal arrests.”

BCI is accessible 24/7 through its communications center, at 855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446). If BCI's assistance is desired, the requesting agency should seek it immediately, regardless of the time of day. Delayed requests might hamper the bureau's ability to observe or collect relevant evidence or statements, and may result in the denial of investigative services.

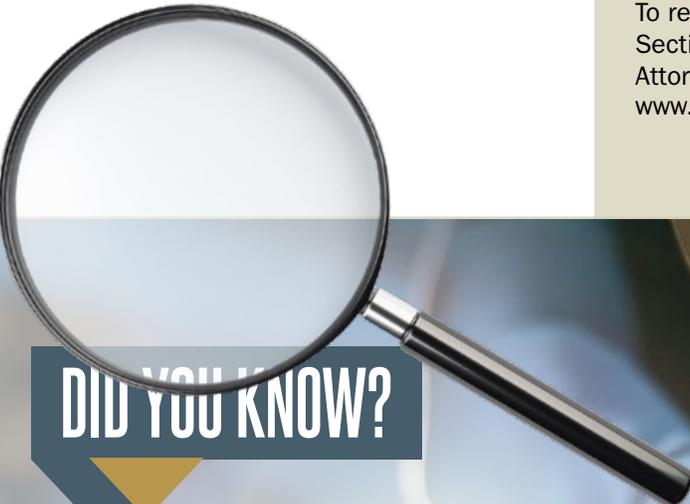
## Special Prosecutions Section ensures impartiality in cases of all kinds

When an officer-involved critical incident occurs in Ohio, the county prosecutor can appoint the Attorney General's Office to prosecute the case. This is done to ensure an independent review, given that county prosecutors work with local law enforcement daily.

But the Special Prosecutions Sections doesn't just handle cases involving police shootings and other officer-involved critical incidents. County prosecutors call on the section when a conflict of interest arises (or when the public might assume a conflict of interest), and in cases in which specialized knowledge is required or in which a lack of local resources would limit the prosecution.

The Special Prosecutions team is made up of seasoned attorneys who can serve as lead prosecutors or assistant prosecutors in a wide range of criminal cases. For example, several of the Attorney General's special prosecutors focus on cases involving crimes against children or human trafficking. Others focus on capital murder, drug trafficking, financial crimes, or public corruption cases.

To request assistance of the Special Prosecutions Section, prosecutors should fill out the form on the Attorney General's website: [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Special-Prosecutions](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Special-Prosecutions).



### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Ensuring transparency

In the case of a fatal police shooting in which BCI was the primary investigator and/or the AGO's Special Prosecutions Section presented the case to a grand jury, the Attorney General's Office posts the entire case file online so the public can review the facts. These files might include a range of lab reports, interviews with officers and witnesses, radio transcripts, videos and photos, and personnel files. These cases are posted once prosecution is declined or the case is adjudicated.

# SPECIAL VICTIMS

BCI's Special Victims Unit focuses on investigating victim-centered crimes affecting populations that benefit from specialized law enforcement handling. Examples include children, the elderly and human trafficking victims. The crimes can include abduction, sexual assault, financial abuse and/or physical abuse.

## Crimes against children

Staff experts throughout the Attorney General's Office stand ready to help local law enforcement agencies investigate and prosecute criminals who victimize children. Special agents from BCI, as well as victim advocates and special prosecutors from the AGO, can help with criminal cases and, if needed, respond to crime scenes as part of a Rapid Response Team. BCI's Crimes Against Children team focuses on fighting crimes such as:

- ★ Online trading of child pornography.
- ★ Sex offenses involving child victims.
- ★ Human trafficking.
- ★ Shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma.

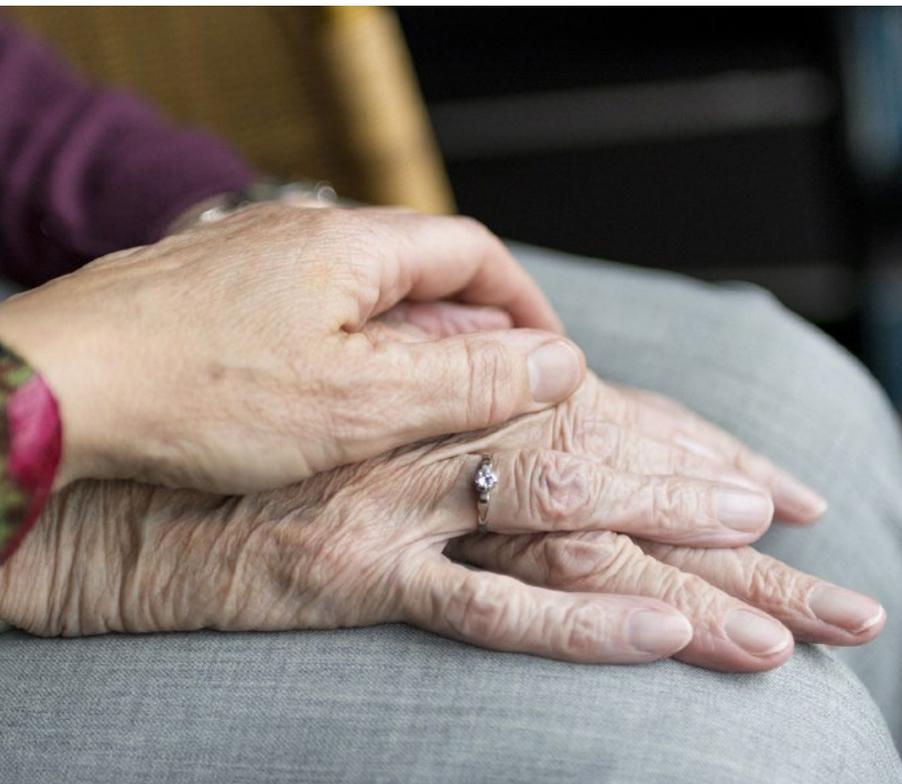
The team has expertise in:

- ★ Undercover online chats.
- ★ Forensic analysis of computers.
- ★ Warrant enforcement for noncompliant sex offender registrants.
- ★ Amber Alerts and Missing Endangered Children Alerts.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Project LINK

Through Project LINK (Linking Individuals Not Known), the Missing Persons Unit offers free assistance to those searching for a loved one who has been missing for more than 30 days. BCI's criminal analysts gather photos and other identifying information from family members to aid the search. When a missing person has not been located, DNA collected from family members can be compared to DNA taken from unidentified remains from crime scenes and coroners' offices.



## AGO gets justice for Alzheimer's victim

Thanks in part to an investigation led by BCI at the request of the Knox County prosecutor, a former sheriff's deputy and his wife are facing years in prison for stealing more than \$500,000 from an Alzheimer's patient they were appointed to protect.

Daniel and Elisabeth Bobo befriended Kay and Richard Hoppe and later helped the couple move into a Mount Vernon nursing home. After Richard Hoppe died in 2018, the Bobos used the power of attorney that the Hoppes had granted them to access credit cards and bank accounts. When Kay Hoppe passed away in 2020, Daniel Bobo was named the executor of the estate. The couple stole the money for their own personal expenses.

The AGO's Special Prosecutions Section tried the case.

# 2022 MISSING CHILDREN BY THE NUMBERS

# 15,555

MISSING CHILDREN REPORTS



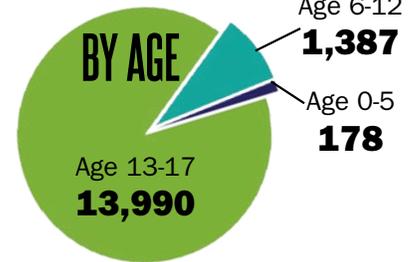
Females

# 8,224



Males

# 7,331



## Crimes against the elderly

The Attorney General's **Elder Justice Unit** was created to increase the investigation and prosecution of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation involving older Ohioans. The unit is a collaborative effort among BCI and several sections of the AGO, including Health Care Fraud, Consumer Protection, Crime Victim Services and Special Prosecutions. The team helps local communities with investigations, forensic analysis, case presentation and prosecution, outreach, trainings and technical assistance. For more information on the Elder Justice Unit, or to get support for a victim of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation, call the Attorney General's Help Desk at 800-282-0515.

## Missing persons

BCI's Criminal Intelligence Unit runs the **Ohio Missing Persons Unit** and maintains the Missing Children Clearinghouse. The clearinghouse compiles data about missing children throughout the state and assists local law enforcement agencies and victims' families. It also works with the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to educate and aid law enforcement officers, teachers, parents and children.

The Missing Persons Unit also plays an integral role in cases involving missing adults, human trafficking and unidentified human remains. Its work includes creating forensic facial reconstructions and age-progression images.

The Missing Persons Unit has a 24-hour toll-free hotline (800-325-5604) to field calls from law enforcement, parents and community members.

## Human trafficking

The fight against labor and sex trafficking in Ohio involves the Attorney General's **Human Trafficking Initiative (HTI)** team, which focuses on advocacy, training and policy; BCI and local, state and federal law enforcement agencies; social service agencies and nonprofit organizations; and anti-human

## Task force takes down Columbus trafficking operation

Following a years-long investigation by the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, a Franklin County grand jury in October 2022 indicted four Columbus residents in connection with an operation that peddled people and drugs.

The task force had received numerous tips about a West Side ring and ultimately identified 27 potential trafficking victims and seized five guns, more than \$200,000 worth of narcotics, and \$208,733 in cash.

The task force includes resources from the Columbus Division of Police, Homeland Security Investigations, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the Licking County Sheriff's Office, the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, the Powell Police Department, BCI, the Adult Parole Authority, the Ohio State University Police Department, the Salvation Army, Southeast Healthcare, the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office and the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office. It is one of several human trafficking task forces supported by the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission.

trafficking coalitions throughout the state.

The AGO's Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC) organizes and supports regional human trafficking task forces throughout Ohio. These task forces are led by local law enforcement agencies and additionally supported by federal agencies and state agencies, including Ohio BCI.

BCI's support includes specially trained investigators from the Special Victims Unit, criminal intelligence analysts, cyber-crime experts and forensic analysts. It also includes training, technical assistance and equipment loans. Additionally, BCI aggregates trafficking data reported by law enforcement agencies in OHLEG. BCI also can procure victim advocates and social services with the help of the Human Trafficking Initiative team in the Attorney General's Office.

Separately, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy trains law enforcement officers to identify and investigate human trafficking in Ohio. Since Ohio's Safe Harbor Law was enacted in 2012, all new peace officers have been required to participate in an OPOTA-approved course on human trafficking. The HTI team created a Human Trafficking 101 course for OPOTA Online and teaches a two-day, in-person class at OPOTA once a year.

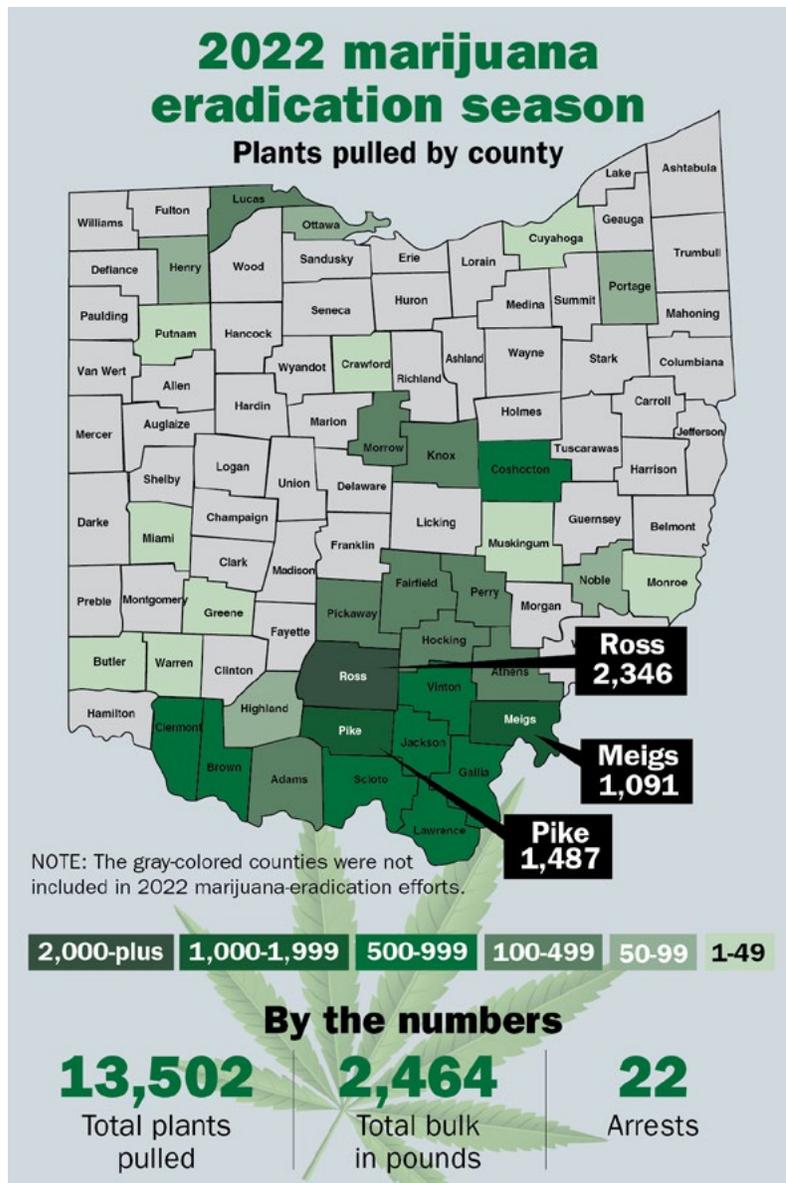
For more information about Ohio's efforts to end human trafficking, contact the Attorney General's HTI team at 800-282-0515 or HTI@OhioAGO.gov.

# NARCOTICS

The Narcotics Unit works with local, state and federal law enforcement to combat illicit drug activity ranging from street-level drug trafficking to complex, multi-jurisdictional conspiracies.

Along with their years of experience and training in narcotics investigations, agents bring the latest technological tools to an investigation, including photo and video equipment, pen registers to track phone and internet activity, thermal imagery, body wires, vehicle tracking devices and ground sensors.

During the summer, BCI's Narcotics Unit runs the state's Marijuana Eradication Program — funded by the federal DEA. Agents in helicopters spot from the air while agents on the ground assist local law enforcement with the eradication of illegal marijuana plants.



# MEDICAID PROVIDER FRAUD / PATIENT ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The Attorney General's Office operates a special unit dedicated to investigating and prosecuting health-care providers who attempt to rip off the Medicaid system, the federal/state health insurance program for low-income, disabled and elderly Americans. (Medicaid recipient fraud, on the other hand, is investigated by the Ohio Department of Medicaid.)

Equally significant, the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU), as it is known, also targets patient abuse and neglect in Ohio's long-term-care facilities.

The unit is part of a nationwide system of MFCUs operating in each state and is consistently recognized as one of the nation's best. Its investigators work with local law enforcement, BCI and a host of public and private partners who collectively serve as a pipeline to report bad actors.

Law enforcement agencies can reach the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit at 614-466-0722 or through the Attorney General's Help Center at 800-282-0515.

## Patient nightmare: Threatened by nurse

Gregory Cornell, a licensed practical nurse at the Armstrong Memory Care Assisted Living facility in Warren, was helping an elderly resident into bed when the woman became combative. Cornell responded by pinning her wrists against the bed and holding a pillow over her face while threatening to smother her. "These little girls (nursing aides) will be leaving here in an hour, and it's just going to be me and you," he said, according to witnesses who also reported that the woman was visibly scared and confused and made whimpering noises. With the help of the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office, Cornell was convicted of one count of patient abuse and sentenced to five years of community control — a sentence that was transferred to West Virginia, where the defendant now resides.



# ORGANIZED CRIME

The Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission works with local, state and federal agencies to combat organized crime, including drug operations and human trafficking. The commission authorizes task forces to investigate organized criminal activity that crosses city, township and county borders. Investigation details and the identities of authorities involved, as well as the identity of the person or group being investigated, remain confidential until an arrest or indictment has been filed.

Because every investigation is unique, OOCIC tailors its support to each case. The commission assists local law enforcement in three main areas. It offers a wide range of advanced technical assistance (e.g., forensic audio and video tools, criminal intelligence research and analysis), provides funding to pay confidential informants and buy contraband and related expenses, and works with the

Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Section when assistance is requested in prosecuting task force cases.

Task forces supported by OOCIC have focused on narcotics, money laundering, human trafficking, public corruption, violent crimes, white-collar crimes and property crimes (burglary, theft and robbery rings).

OOCIC may be available to help law enforcement agencies that are not part of a task force. If the assistance can be provided without hindering task force operations, OOCIC loans equipment and provides technical and legal services to agencies.

For more information about OOCIC, call 614-277-1000 or the AGO Help Center at 800-282-0515.

Law enforcement agencies interested in submitting a proposal to form an organized crime task force should email [Investigative\\_Coordinator@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:Investigative_Coordinator@OhioAGO.gov) to be contacted by staff to discuss the proposal. (Please indicate your affiliation with a law enforcement agency).



# PUBLIC CORRUPTION

In coordination with BCI and the Special Prosecutions Section, both part of the AGO, the Attorney General pursues cases of public corruption when help is requested by a local law enforcement agency or prosecutor's office. In 2021, AGO attorneys prosecuted

10 Cuyahoga County jail employees, including the jail's director, for harm caused to inmates, including eight who died over a span of six months.

Other cases focused on the former mayor of Wapakoneta, the former Butler County auditor, as well as several intertwined cases of corruption involving the former Youngstown mayor, the city's former finance director, and two businessmen.

# ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Attorneys and specially trained BCI agents in the Attorney General's Environmental Enforcement Section participate in regional task forces that investigate potential environmental crimes throughout the state. The unit works cases involving hazardous, solid and infectious wastes as well as other pollution. The unit also routinely partners with the Ohio and U.S. Environmental Protection agencies.

The Attorney General does not have independent environmental investigative or enforcement authority; rather, he works at the request of the state agencies he represents, local boards of health and local prosecutors.

Law enforcement agencies can contact the AGO's Environmental Enforcement Unit at 800-348-3248. Potential or immediate environmental problems should be reported to the Ohio EPA's 24-hour hotline at 800-282-9378 or the U.S. EPA's emergency number at 800-424-8802.

## Shine a light on **DUMPERS**

### **Taking a stand for the environment**

In October 2019, Hillsboro resident Ronald Ison was sentenced to four years in prison after pleading no contest to illegally dumping more than 200 scrap tires at sites in Highland County.

Investigators discovered that Ison obtained the tires from a local junkyard that had agreed to pay him for their disposal. He dumped the tires in two Highland County townships, including a site in the 5,090-acre wildlife area adjacent to Paint Creek State Park, which features scenic woodlands and a lake area known for dove hunting, fishing and wildlife watching.

The case was jointly investigated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Wildlife and BCI's Environmental Enforcement Unit. Attorneys from Yost's Environmental Enforcement Section prosecuted the case.



# TRAINING, CONFERENCES, EQUIPMENT, GRANTS, MEDIA

**The Attorney General's Office oversees police training** and is dedicated to making sure that Ohio's law enforcement officers are as prepared as any in the nation. Under the office's direction, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission determines training requirements and curriculum for peace officers, private security, and corrections officers. The Attorney General also is committed to ensuring that peace officers are well-equipped to do their jobs. Grants available through his office can help offset the cost of training and equipment.



## TRAINING

### OPOTA

The AGO's law enforcement training arm, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA), based in London, provides in-person and online instruction in basic, advanced and technical subjects for the Ohio law enforcement community using the latest research and recommended professional practices.

Under AG Yost, OPOTA overhauled its methods. It has revamped its courses to reflect the

recommendations of law enforcement agencies and partnered with experts in the field to serve as instructors.

### OPOTA Online

Responding to requests for more convenient training, OPOTA launched OPOTA Online, a user-friendly platform that lets officers take courses when it works for them, including courses that fulfill the requirements of state-mandated Continuing Professional Training (CPT). Sworn officers and troopers are required to take 24 hours of advanced training each year.

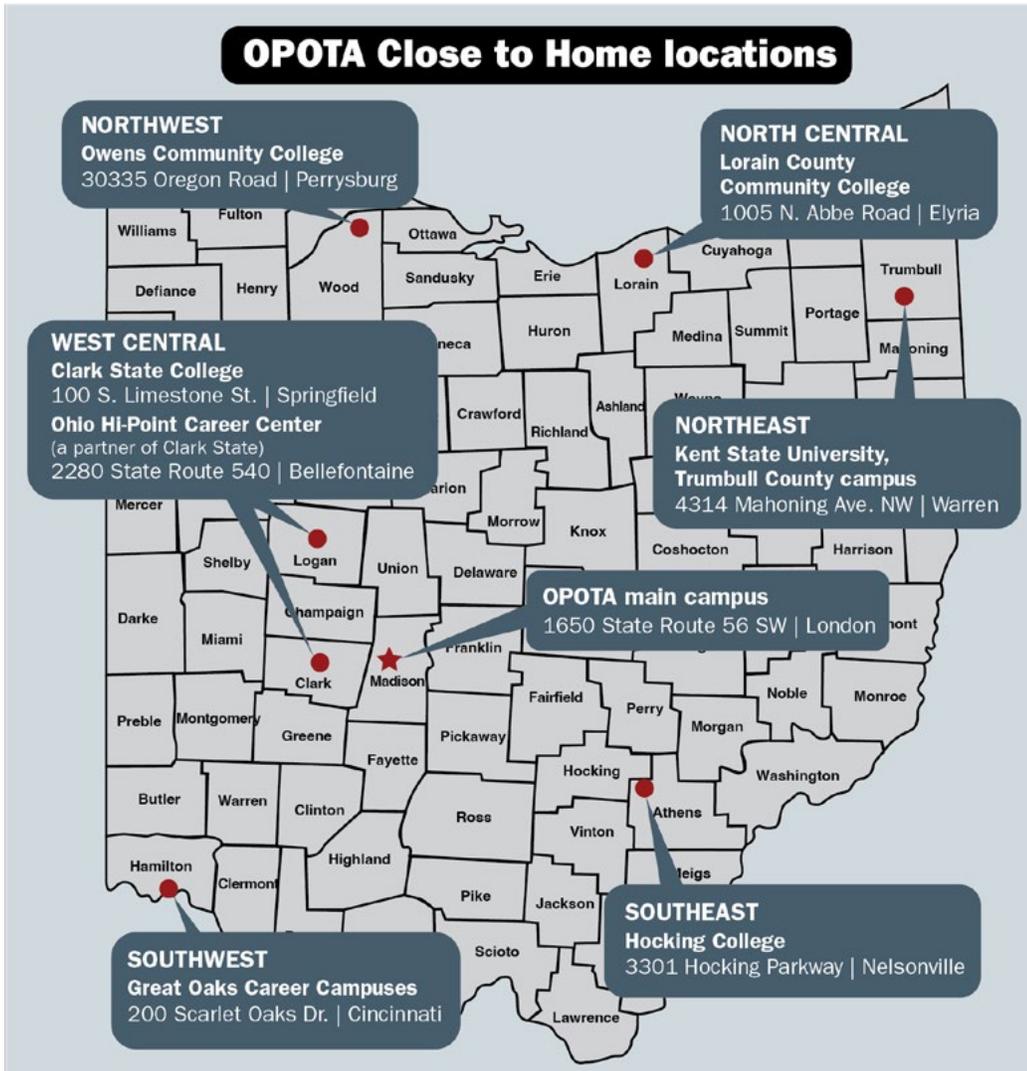


## OPOTA Portal

The OPOTA Portal is a separate system from OPOTA Online. The portal provides an easy way for peace officers to access their records and to register for OPOTA in-person classes. The portal also is where agency administrators can report the hiring or separation of peace officers. It also provides agencies with easy access to report the completion of CPT and an agency's annual roster.

The OPOTA Portal can be accessed at <https://opota.ohioattorneygeneral.gov>.

## OPOTA Close to Home locations



### In addition, OPOTA Online also hosts these video series:

- ★ **Roll-Call Refreshers:** These courses provide basic but important knowledge on a variety of topics critical to law enforcement. Each course can be completed in 15 minutes or less and is designed to be fully compatible with mobile devices. Examples: Distracted Driving, Evidence Collection Procedures, NIBIN Basics, Testifying in Court.
- ★ **Beyond the Basics:** These courses are new or recently developed and offer an in-depth examination of a variety of topics important to law enforcement. Courses that would require an hour or longer to complete are divided up into parts or modules. New content is scheduled for release each month. Examples: Impacting Narcotics in Ohio, Ohio Public Records Law, Responding to Sexual Assault, Use of Body-Worn Cameras, Use of Deadly Force and Legal Guidelines.
- ★ **National Experts Spotlight:** These unique trainings spotlight national experts on current, high-interest topics for law enforcement. Topics include officer wellness, response to mass violence/protests, civil unrest, hate crimes, use of force and violent-crime investigations.

OPOTA Online can be accessed at <https://opotaonline.inquisqlms.com/>.

### OPOTA Close to Home

OPOTA responded to officers' requests to have in-person training closer to where they live and work. In response, the agency has teamed up with six regional training centers around the state to provide the same high-quality training. The latest training center to partner with OPOTA — Owens State Community College in northwest Ohio — came onboard in late 2023.

## School threat assessment training

The Attorney General's Office created the Ohio School Threat Assessment Training, a combination of best practices from leading experts, including the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center. The training encourages collaboration among community stakeholders, including police and mental-health advocates, to prevent targeted violence and provide help for troubled students. The course is intended for school officials and employees, as well as law enforcement. Consisting of 10 modules, it runs about three hours.

The course is available at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/threatassessment](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/threatassessment). However, law enforcement officers who want to take the training for credit must take the course through OPOTA Online at <https://opotaonline.inquisiqlms.com/Default.aspx>.

A 30-page reference guide is also available for download at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OhioSchoolSafetyAssessmentTraining](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OhioSchoolSafetyAssessmentTraining).

## School-response training

In 2023, the Attorney General's Office launched a specialized course for OPOTC-certified peace officers and troopers who are assigned full- or part-time to an Ohio law enforcement tactical team. The two-day course, "School-Response Training for Members of Ohio Law Enforcement Tactical Teams," taught by the Ohio Tactical Officers Association (OTOA), is approved for 16 credit hours of CPT. Officers who complete the training can apply for a grant through the Attorney General's Office to cover the full cost of the course.



## 'How-to' videos help officers make use of expanded NIBIN technology

BCI and OPOTA have teamed up to create two training videos to further educate the state's law enforcement officers about the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network.

NIBIN is an automated ballistic-imaging tool that allows for the comparison of fired cartridge cases in order to link crimes involving the same firearm.

The videos were produced to coincide with a major rollout of additional NIBIN equipment at BCI labs in Richfield, Bowling Green and London, an expansion that greatly enhances local law enforcement's access to the technology.

The videos are available through OPOTA Online, under the "Roll Call Refreshers" catalog.

The first video describes policies and best practices for NIBIN and explains how to collect and submit evidence. The second illustrates how to properly swab firearms for DNA evidence.

Each course counts for 0.25 credits toward the 24-hour CPT requirement. The courses, which can be completed in 15 minutes or less, are designed to be fully compatible with mobile devices.



**LEC**  
LAW \* ENFORCEMENT \* CONFERENCE

★ **2** DAYS  
IN MAY ★  
CONFERENCE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
**SUMMIT**

## CONFERENCES

### Law Enforcement Conference

Ohio's preeminent gathering of state, county and municipal law enforcement, this annual conference presents a dozen or so workshops that focus on the latest tactics and emerging trends. The OPOTA-led event also includes national speakers who address hot-topic issues in the profession. The conference is held in October in Columbus.

### Two Days in May

This annual conference is sponsored by the AGO and focuses on current trends and best practices in victim services. The workshops, about two dozen in total, are designed for crime victim advocates and law enforcement officials.

### Human Trafficking Summit

The AGO brings together survivors, social workers and victim advocates, police officers, lawyers, prosecutors,

judges and other community stakeholders to learn how different areas of the state are succeeding in the fight against human trafficking. The summit is moving from January to August in 2024.

### Ohio Intelligence and Digital Forensics Conference

The inaugural conference, held in 2023, brought together investigators, analysts and computer specialists involved in technology and digital investigations for advanced training and intelligence sharing. Participants represented local, state and federal agencies, and included sworn and civilian staff. The conference was presented by BCI's Criminal Intelligence and Cyber Crimes units in partnership with the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center.

### Emerging Trends in Fraud Prevention Conference

At this yearly gathering of Ohio's top law enforcement, banking, audit, and private industry investigators, the hundreds of attendees can select from dozens of sessions presented by experts in the field of financial crimes. The conference is typically held in May.

# EQUIPMENT

## Bulletproof vests

The Ohio Law Enforcement Bulletproof Vest Program — administered by the AGO — provides grants to local law enforcement agencies to buy body armor vests. The program has awarded grants exceeding \$7 million to more than 600 local law enforcement agencies in all 88 Ohio counties. With a local match of 25 percent, agencies can receive up to \$40,000 from the program.

**Grant application:** <https://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Files/Forms/Forms-for-Law-Enforcement/Application-Bulletproof-Vest.aspx>

## Sex offender registry technology

The AGO provided all 88 county sheriffs with new cameras to improve the routine registration process of convicted sexual offenders. In 59 counties, sheriff's offices that requested them also received new computers.

The hardware is backed by new software improvements and customization capabilities made to the **Sex Offender Registry Notification (SORN) system**, which law enforcement accesses through BCI. The new equipment creates uniformity across the state and increases the clarity of offender photographs, improving public safety.



# MISCELLANEOUS

## Media guidance

The communications team at the Attorney General's Office can help local law enforcement agencies manage media relations in any case in which BCI takes part. To brainstorm strategy and discuss specific tactics, contact Steven Irwin, AGO press secretary, at [Steven.Irwin@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:Steven.Irwin@OhioAGO.gov).

# CONTACT INFORMATION

Multiple units of the Attorney General's Office assist law enforcement agencies; contact information for various service divisions is listed below. Assistance also is available through the Attorney General's Help Desk at 800-282-0515.

## **BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**

**Law enforcement hotline:** 855-BCI-OHIO  
(855-224-6446)

### **London Office (headquarters)**

*Laboratory and evidence reception site*  
1560 State Rt. 56 SW, P.O. Box 365  
London, OH 43140  
855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446) or 740-845-2000

### **Richfield Office**

*Laboratory and evidence reception site*  
4055 Highlander Parkway  
Richfield, OH 44286  
330-659-4600

### **Bowling Green Office**

*Laboratory and evidence reception site*  
750 N. College Drive  
Bowling Green, OH 43402  
419-353-5603

### **Boardman Office (opens Dec. 2023)**

*Evidence reception only*  
8299 Market St.  
Boardman, OH 44512  
330-884-7555

### **Athens Office**

*Evidence reception only*  
86 Columbus Circle, Suite 202  
Athens, OH 45701  
740-249-4378

## **OHIO ORGANIZED CRIME INVESTIGATIONS COMMISSION (OOCIC)**

614-277-1000

Law enforcement agencies interested in submitting a proposal to form an organized crime task force should email [Investigative\\_Coordinator@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:Investigative_Coordinator@OhioAGO.gov).

## **OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING ACADEMY (OPOTA)**

1650 State Route 56 SW  
P.O. Box 309  
London, OH 43140  
Phone: 740-845-2700

## **OTHER UNITS WITHIN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**

**AGO Help Desk:** 800-282-0515

**Crime Victim Services:** 614-466-5610

**Elder Justice Unit:** 800-282-0515

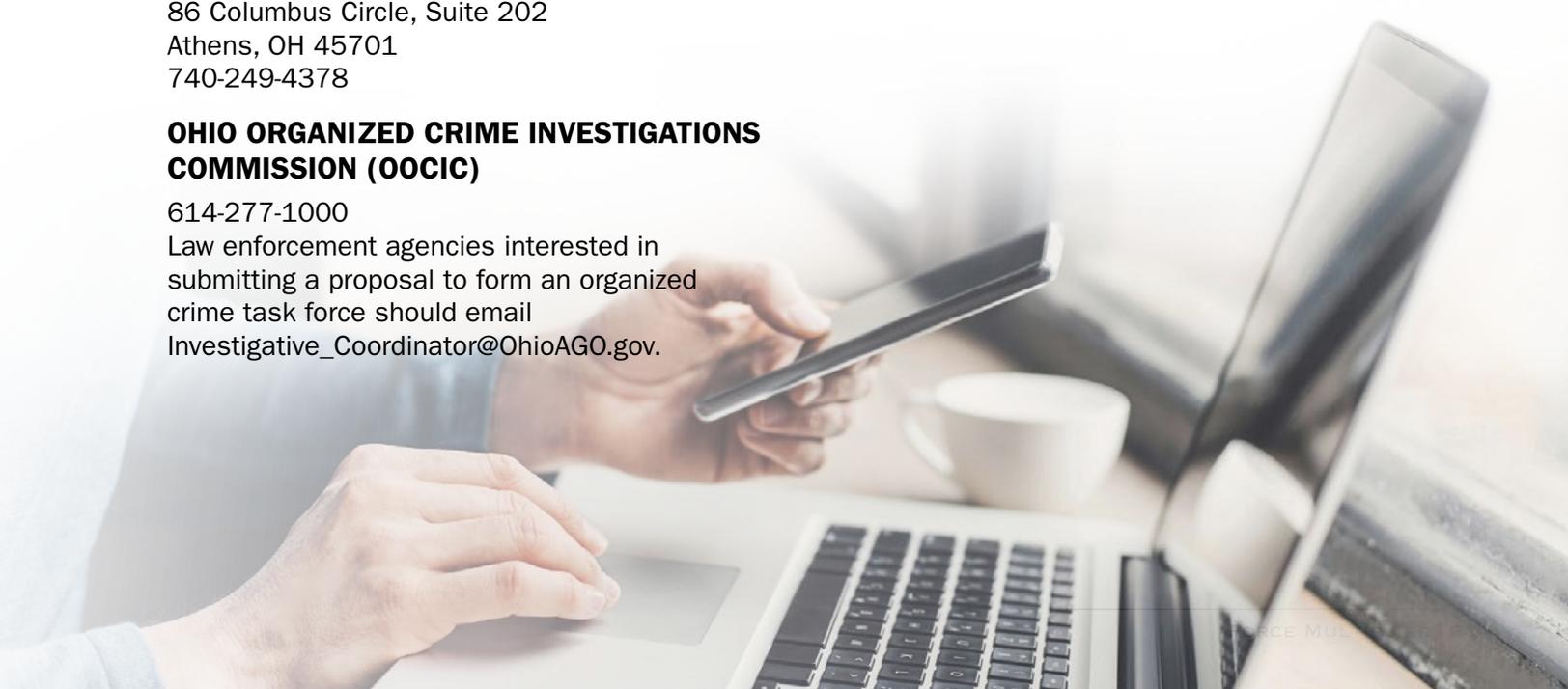
**Environmental Enforcement Section:**  
614-466-2766

**Health Care Fraud Section:** 614-466-0722

**Human Trafficking Initiative (HTI):** 800-282-0515  
or [HTI@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:HTI@OhioAGO.gov)

**Special Prosecutions Section:** 614-629-8340.

To request assistance of the Special Prosecutions Section, prosecutors should fill out the form on the Attorney General's website: [OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Special-Prosecutions](http://OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Special-Prosecutions).





**DAVE YOST**

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

---

THE OHIO ATTORNEY  
GENERAL'S OFFICE

**FORCE  
MULTIPLIER**

30 E. Broad St., 17th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-282-0515

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

---