



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Public Safety**  
DIVISION OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND FORENSIC SCIENCE  
Office of the Director

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To: All Law Enforcement Agencies, Department of Law

From: David Kanaris, Forensic Laboratory Chief

Date: July 17, 2025

Subject: Bone DNA Extraction

On 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025, the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory will bring online a procedure for DNA analysis of bones and teeth. With this new method available, unidentified skeletal remains can be processed at the crime lab and potentially uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) for possible identification.

All teeth and skeletal remains must first be submitted to the State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO), where they can be assessed as to whether the remains are likely human. The SMEO will then forward likely human bones to the Crime Lab for processing.

Upon completion of DNA analysis, bone profiles will first be compared to any submitted reference samples, and a report will be issued. Any unidentified suitable profiles will be uploaded into CODIS. If there is a match in CODIS, such as an arrestee or offender profile, this will be reported in accordance with lab procedures.

If you have questions about how to submit skeletal remains, please reach out to Jennifer Foster, DNA Supervisor at [Jennifer.Foster@alaska.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Foster@alaska.gov) or (907)-269-4074.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "DK", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Kanaris  
Chief, Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory