



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: Alaska Law Enforcement Agencies
From: David Kanaris, Forensic Laboratory Chief
Date: September 2, 2025
Subject: Rapid DNA Technology Overview and Implementation in Alaska

Rapid DNA technology enables the generation of a DNA profile in as little as 90 minutes using a single instrument—without the need for human interpretation. In 2017, the FBI began developing guidance to integrate Rapid DNA systems into booking stations, with the goal of enrolling arrestees into CODIS quickly to identify suspects or link individuals to other crimes. Currently, Alaska's IT infrastructure does not support the real-time connectivity required for Rapid DNA instruments at booking stations. The lab does have a Rapid DNA instrument currently validated and operational.

On July 1, 2025, the FBI approved updates to the Quality Assurance Standards, introducing two new forensic Rapid DNA standards. These changes now permit the use of Rapid profiles developed from crime scene samples in CODIS searches, expanding the technology's forensic applications. Currently a cartridge is not commercially available for crime scene samples. Once one becomes available, we will validate it and notify you of its capabilities.

Under the FBI's framework, implementation of a Rapid DNA program requires a collaborative partnership between law enforcement agencies and accredited crime laboratories. In Alaska, law enforcement agencies will be responsible for purchasing Rapid DNA instruments, maintaining appropriate environmental conditions for the machines, ensuring equipment upkeep, and securely transferring data to the lab. As Alaska's State CODIS Agency, the crime lab holds primary responsibility for policy development, program oversight, and training of any law enforcement agencies seeking to adopt Rapid DNA technology. This program would resemble our Breath Alcohol program and would fall under the laboratory's accreditation.

It's important to note that Rapid DNA instruments are less sensitive than traditional laboratory methods. They are not suitable for analyzing mixtures, degraded samples, or low-quantity DNA. Sample selection guidelines will need to be implemented. Agencies considering the integration of a Rapid DNA program into their operations are strongly encouraged to contact the crime lab to discuss strategic planning, operational considerations, and available support.

Sincerely,

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

David Kanaris
Chief, Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory