

August 28, 2017

Dear Valued Customer,

On February 26, 2017 we issued a letter informing the community that we were unable to offer DNA and anthropological services for missing persons and unidentified remains cases to agencies outside the state of Texas. We are pleased to announce that with the greatly appreciated support of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), we are resuming our DNA and anthropological services for all law enforcement agencies in the United States as of September 1, 2017.

Initially we anticipate receiving a large influx of missing persons and unidentified remains cases. To best manage the demand and serve all interested parties, the following submission guidance is provided:

- Cases will be processed in the order received except as described below.
- Bulk submissions from a single agency will be parsed out over time and be based on agency prioritization, if requested. Please contact the technical leader or evidence custodians before sending bulk submissions to discuss expectations and prioritization. Bulk submissions are defined as more than ten unidentified remains cases in a single month.
- Cases which have been identified by other means, such as visual, dental, fingerprint, or circumstantial (i.e., reasonable evidence exists to assign an identification) will not be accepted at this time. This includes cases for which DNA confirmation is being sought by the family of the decedent. UNTCHI recommends that agencies seek alternative DNA testing options for these types of cases.
- UNTCHI will not be able to accommodate requests to expedite a case(s).

Due to the anticipated initial influx of cases, longer turnaround times are inevitable. Therefore, we ask for your understanding and patience as we try to serve as many agencies and process as many cases as possible. In time, we expect that the backlog will diminish and the guidelines listed above will no longer be warranted. Until such time, these guidelines will remain in effect.

UNTCHI will begin accepting missing persons cases from agencies outside the state of Texas effective September 1, 2017. We sincerely thank you for the support we received during this temporary cessation and look forward to serving you again.

Best Regards,

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Dixie Peters, Technical Leader, Missing Persons Unit
Melody Josserand, CODIS Administrator
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