

CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

NOTICE
8.6

September 27, 2019

TO: All Concerned Commanding Officers

FROM: Chief of Detectives

SUBJECT: PROTOCOL FOR REQUESTING GENEALOGICAL AND FAMILIAL DNA

This Notice establishes the protocols for requesting genealogical and familial DNA searches. Genealogical and familial DNA searches examine DNA databases for matches of people who might be a relative of a suspect who left DNA at a crime scene, but whose DNA profile is not currently in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database. Those identified as possible relatives are not suspects, but serve as leads for investigators to identify potential suspects. Genealogical searches are to be conducted using proven genealogical and ancestry investigative methods in coordination with Robbery-Homicide Division (RHD) and the Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Forensic Science Section. Familial searches will be considered after a genealogical search has been attempted.

The California Department of Justice (DOJ) has established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for familial search protocols of the State DNA Index System (SDIS). The Department has set forth the following protocol to comply with the requirements of the DOJ, MOU:

CASE CONDITIONS FOR GENEALOGICAL OR FAMILIAL DNA SEARCH:

To qualify for a genealogical or familial DNA search, the case must fit the following criteria:

- A major violent crime has been committed where there is a serious risk to the public safety; and,
- All other reasonable and viable investigative strategies, including DNA profile comparison(s) to suspect reference samples, have been pursued and no suspect profile was obtained in the CODIS database; and,
- The prosecutorial and investigative entity are committed to prosecuting/investigating the suspect if the genealogical or familial DNA search is successful; and,
- The DNA case evidence sample is a single-source with a complete profile and enough remaining DNA from all relevant case evidence samples to perform additional testing.

Note: Any questions regarding DNA profile evidence samples should be directed to the Serology/DNA Unit, Forensic Science Division, at (323) 415-8800.

PROCEDURE:

Robbery-Homicide Division is the Department's point of contact on genealogical and familial DNA requests. In order to be considered for either a genealogical or familial DNA search, the investigating officer must be able to adhere to the aforementioned criteria for a genealogical or familial DNA search and is required to contact RHD to conduct an assessment.

Once the assessment has been completed and approved by the Commanding Officer, RHD, the Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County District Attorney, Forensic Science Section, must be consulted before the genealogical or familial DNA search will be presented for consideration.

If a genealogical search is determined to be the appropriate investigative strategy, the information will be presented to the Commanding Officer, Detective Services Group for concurrence and approval.

If a familial DNA search is deemed an appropriate investigative strategy, RHD will arrange for a presentation to the Chief of Detectives (COD) by the investigating officer making the request for familial DNA search. If the COD concurs that a familial DNA search is an appropriate strategy, the COD will forward that recommendation to the Chief of Police for final approval

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Robbery-Homicide Division, at (213) 486-6840.


KRIS E. PITCHER, Deputy Chief
Chief of Detectives

APPROVED:



BOB GREEN, Deputy Chief
Chief of Staff
Office of the Chief of Police

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