



# Oregon

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February 13, 2023

The Oregon State Police Forensic Science and Pathology Bureau is modifying the process for Unidentified Human Remains and Missing Persons cases. The primary point of contact is now Dr. Nici Vance with the Oregon State Medical Examiner's (OSME) Office of Human Identification. Please see details below:

## MISSING PERSONS AND UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN REMAINS

- Due to a lack of appropriate technology and expertise, the Forensic Services Division no longer provides DNA analysis services related to Unidentified Human Remains or Missing Persons. Depending on the condition of the unidentified human remains the Latent Print unit may be able to provide identification services. Please contact your local forensic laboratory.
  - Any pending requests for DNA analysis of secondary standards from Missing Persons or Family Reference Standards will be canceled and the evidence returned.
  - Any DNA profiles related to Missing Persons or Unidentified Human Remains that were entered into CODIS by the Oregon State Police will be removed once a private laboratory has been identified to take ownership of these profiles.
- **Missing Persons**
    - For resources for Missing Persons Investigations, please contact the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office of Human Identification Program/Dr. Nici Vance.
    - If a Missing Person case remains active and unresolved after 30 days have elapsed, a DNA sample directly associated with the missing person should be obtained. DNA analysis of missing person cases may be performed by a designated CODIS-participating laboratory. When this service is needed, contact the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) at <https://namus.nij.ojp.gov/services#namus-investigative-support>. **Please note: a Missing Person Profile *must* be uploaded and active on the NamUs website in order to initiate free DNA services. We strongly encourage all agencies to create and upload their missing person cases into NamUs for tracking, comparison, and possible resolution.**
  - **Unidentified Remains**

## Missing Persons and Unidentified Human Remains

February 13, 2023

Page 2

- Refer to ORS Chapter 146 - Investigations of Deaths, Injuries and Missing Persons.
- All unidentified human remains will be submitted to and analyzed by the Oregon State Medical Examiner's (OSME) Office. The OSP Forensic Laboratories will not accept human remains except for human hands for identification purposes.
- "Unidentified human remains" do not include human remains that are part of an archaeological site or suspected of being Native American. Archaeological remains are covered under ORS Chapters 97 and 390 and ORS 358.905 to 358.961.
- Analysis of evidence from a criminal investigation related to unidentified human remains may be submitted to your local forensic laboratory.

### **Human Identification Program Contact information:**

Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office

ATTN: Dr. Nici Vance

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Clackamas, Oregon 97015

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