



Idaho State Police

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Director

Brad Little
Governor

To: Idaho Law Enforcement Agencies and Prosecutors
From: Matthew Gamette, ISP Forensic Services Laboratory System Director
Subject: SAKI Team Introduction and Resources
Date: January 17, 2024

Dear Colleagues:

As some of you know, the Idaho State Police has received a Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant from the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance. This grant is administered and operated by Idaho State Police Forensic Services. There are three purpose areas of this grant.

The first purpose area addresses the collection of DNA samples from convicted offenders who have qualifying offenses under Idaho Code § 19-5506 but have never provided a sample for the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database. In other words, their DNA is "lawfully owed" to the State of Idaho and belongs in CODIS, but it remains uncollected.

The next purpose area of the grant encompasses working with local law enforcement agencies in Idaho on cold cases with a sexual assault nexus by using advanced DNA technology such as Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy.

The third purpose area involves utilizing advanced DNA testing and research methodologies to help identify and apprehend violent offenders linked to homicides and other violent crimes throughout Idaho.

While the areas of all these grants involve advanced DNA methods, we also evaluate each case for other advanced forensic science methods that could be used to help solve the case.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that Idaho State Police Forensic Services has formed a team of site coordinators, investigators, and other personnel to accomplish the above areas of the grant. As part of their work, the team investigators and site coordinators will be reaching out to your agencies to discuss collecting lawfully owed DNA, to provide desired assistance with unsolved sexual assault and suspected homicide cases, and to track statistics and results in accordance with performance measures required by the grant.

Fundamentally, the role of this team is to serve you as an available resource, and not as an oversight group in any way. We have worked together with ICOPA and ISA to ensure that this team provides assistance to the extent you would like on each case while respecting your

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autonomy as a law enforcement organization. Our investigators are retired, seasoned Idaho law enforcement investigators, are Idaho POST certified, and have extensive experience working in team and task force approaches to solving cases. Our operating procedure and training for them are designed to support your agency in obtaining the resources it needs and the recognition it deserves for any case solves or resolutions. There is funding in this grant to work samples and cases at the ISPFS laboratory and also to outsource anything that cannot be done at the state lab. All of these forensic laboratory and investigative services are provided at no cost to your agency.

Moreover and pursuant to the conditions set forth in Idaho Code § 67-2919, the team members will also be coordinating with your agencies to help identify, track, and submit previously untested or partially tested sexual assault kits.

To facilitate these efforts, Idaho state law and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation have authorized ISPFS to provide the SAKI team site coordinators and investigators with CODIS information to follow up on CODIS hits with your agency. Also, ISPFS is responsible by statute to report information on sexual assault evidence kit CODIS hits to the Idaho Legislature and will therefore continue to follow up with your agency regarding those CODIS hit dispositions as well.

In addition to success stories here in Idaho, other states and jurisdictions participating in these processes discovered many serial offenders previously unknown to law enforcement. Our goal is to assist law enforcement agencies in our state to identify offenders and bring closure to, and justice for, survivors of violent crime.

If you have investigation and cold case assistance questions, please contact Investigative SAKI Site Coordinator Daren Boyd at daren.boyd@isp.idaho.gov or (208) 846-7583. For lawfully owed DNA questions, please contact Lawfully Owed DNA SAKI Site Coordinator Mark Denhardt at mark.denhardt@isp.idaho.gov or (208) 846-7582. Our website for this new team is <https://isp.idaho.gov/forensics/cold-case/> We appreciate you working in partnership with us on these important projects and cases.

Sincerely,

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