



Strategies and Available Resources for Use in Solving Unidentified Deceased Person Cases



This document is provided as a reference guide to summarize the resources available for solving unidentified deceased persons. If you have any questions, please contact Branch Ocampo with FDLE's Medical Examiner Commission Staff at dougcubertson@fdle.state.fl.us or at 850-410-8600.

1. FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

NCIC is a law enforcement database maintained by the FBI which searches the missing person files against the unidentified person files. If you have active unidentified deceased person cases that are not listed in NCIC, please contact your local law enforcement agency to have them entered. If you have cases that need to be closed and removed from NCIC, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

To obtain a hard copy or interactive CD of the new **2006 NCIC III Unidentified Person Data Entry Guide**, please contact:

FBI Communications Unit
(304) 625-4995 or
cjis_comm@leo.gov

Also available online on the CJNet website at the following address:

<http://www.flcjin.net/idt/publications/>

Florida Statute §406.145 states:

Unidentified persons; reporting requirements.—

"... If the body is not immediately identified, the law enforcement agency responsible for investigating the death shall complete an Unidentified Person Report and enter the data, through the Florida Crime Information Center, into the Unidentified Person File of the National Crime Information Center."

2. Fingerprints

Fingerprints of unidentified decedents may be submitted to FDLE. FDLE will conduct a search of state (FDLE) files, unsolved latent fingerprint files, and national (FBI) fingerprint files. FDLE will prioritize processing of these requests, and if an identification is made, the submitting agency will be contacted via telephone immediately. Original fingerprint cards are preferred. If an original card is not available, a photographic copy should be submitted. Please ensure that the National Crime Information Center Number, Medical Examiner Case Number, and Agency Case Number are included on the cards. All fingerprint cards will be returned to you.

Cards should be mailed with the enclosed submission form to FDLE at the address below.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Quality Control and Compromised Identity Section
P.O. Box 1489
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1489
Attn: Doretha Scruggs

Should you have any questions, please contact Doretha Scruggs at (850) 410-7896 or via email at dorethascruggs@fdle.state.fl.us

3. Dental Records coded and entered into NCIC

The purpose of entering dental codes into NCIC is to aid in cross matching missing persons and unidentified person entries. Dental x-rays can be submitted to a trained dentist or to a Forensic Odontologist to be coded and entered into NCIC. Dental records encoded in the old NCIC format should be re-entered and recoded into the new format by these same trained individuals. See the included updated list of those trained individuals in your district.

4. DNA Analysis

Blood, tissue, or bone samples may be submitted directly to the FBI Laboratory by ME offices. Please see the link to obtain a copy of the submission guidelines. Please call the FBI's National Missing Person DNA Database prior to submitting unidentified human remains. Contact: Dr. John Stewart, National Missing Person DNA Database, (703) 632-7582.

The University of North Texas, Center for Human Identification also accepts DNA specimens for missing and unidentified remains. Please contact George Adams, Missing Person Program Coordinator at (800) 763-3147.

5. Forensic Composites

The Dale Earnhardt Bill prohibits the release of autopsy photographs; therefore it is recommended that an artist's composite or skull reconstruction be created for each unidentified deceased person before releasing image for public viewing. Please see the included list or contact your local law enforcement agency for a forensic artist to create an artist composite for the unidentified deceased person.

6. Florida Unidentified Decedents Database (www.fluiddb.com)

This is a widely used, online interactive clearinghouse for Florida's unidentified deceased cases. To submit unidentified cases to this website database, please contact Michael Britt at (904) 209-0820. The District 20 Medical Examiner, Dr. Marta Coburn, will assist any ME office in Florida with entering the available information on any unidentified deceased into the FLUIDDB Database, she can be reached at (239) 434-5020.

7. Forensic Anthropologists

It is recommended that an anthropologic analysis be performed on unidentified deceased remains for a more accurate analysis of the person's height, weight, ethnicity, and any other details that may help the investigation. Please refer to the included list of Forensic Anthropologists.

8. National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (www.NamUs.gov)

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, NamUs, is the first national online repository for missing persons records and unidentified decedent cases. It was launched in July 2007 by the Office of Justice Program's National Institute of Justice. NamUs is made up of two databases: (1) records of unidentified decedents and (2) missing persons reports. Please visit www.NamUs.gov for more information.