

Considerations for Law Enforcement Agencies Implementing Forensic (Crime Scene Evidence) Rapid DNA Programs with CODIS Agencies

Effective July 1, 2025, Law Enforcement can partner with CODIS Agencies to develop forensic (crime scene) Rapid DNA programs for upload and search of eligible profiles in CODIS. This document outlines key considerations for Law Enforcement in developing these partnerships. The table below outlines the high-level requirements for forensic Rapid DNA profile eligibility for CODIS.

<i>Forensic (Crime Scene Evidence) Sample Rapid DNA Requirements for CODIS</i>
<i>1. The Rapid DNA Instrument location and operation must fall under the ISO 17025 accreditation of a CODIS laboratory</i>
<i>2. The forensic evidence samples must be processed in accordance with the 2025 Forensic Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) on or after July 1, 2025</i>
<i>3. The Rapid DNA cartridge/chip used must be approved by NDIS for forensic sample use</i>
<i>4. The CODIS laboratory has validated modified Rapid DNA analysis for the specific Rapid DNA Instrument cartridge/chip</i>
<i>5. The Rapid DNA generated forensic sample data has undergone interpretation and review by qualified laboratory personnel prior to upload or search in CODIS</i>
<i>6. The forensic evidence meets CODIS eligibility requirements (evidence originating from a crime scene attributed to the putative perpetrator)</i>

**Note: Not all samples probative to a case are eligible for CODIS, for example a victim’s DNA sample on a suspect’s shirt may be probative for investigative purposes, but the victim DNA sample is not eligible for CODIS.*

Law Enforcement Coordination with CODIS Laboratory:

- A *Rapid DNA Partner Agency* is a criminal justice agency, such as a law enforcement agency or medical examiner’s office, which is operating a Rapid DNA instrument/System in conjunction with a laboratory and under that laboratory’s scope of accreditation and is contributing the DNA data to the laboratory’s Forensic Rapid DNA Program. CODIS access is limited to the CODIS Laboratory; the partner agency does not have direct access to CODIS. Rapid DNA data and case information must be transferred to the CODIS Laboratory for CODIS eligibility, profile determination to upload/search CODIS, and reporting.
- It is **critical** for the partner agency to have discussions with the CODIS Laboratory before purchasing a Rapid DNA instrument.
 - A Forensic Rapid DNA Task Force should be formed with all relevant stakeholders prior to execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The development of a Forensic Rapid DNA Program takes considerable planning to include expansion of the Laboratory’s scope of accreditation to potential partner agency locations, training, documentation requirements, and secure transfer of data to the Laboratory.
 - Stakeholders include but may not be limited to CODIS Laboratory personnel such as laboratory management, quality assurance manager, CODIS administrator, technical leader and IT personnel. Partner agency personnel may include management, evidence control, crime scene response personnel, technical personnel, and IT personnel.
- Stakeholders must understand the commitment, cooperation, coordination, resources (see below), and need to maintain regular communication that is necessary for the successful implementation of a Forensic Rapid DNA Program which is in compliance with the FBI’s Forensic DNA Quality Assurance Standards for Rapid DNA.

The CODIS Laboratory is required to establish an MOU with the partner agency defining the roles, responsibilities, information technology requirements, and sample acceptance with each agency planning to establish a Forensic Rapid DNA Program with a partner agency. All data in CODIS is the responsibility of the CODIS Laboratory and must adhere to the Quality Assurance Standards and NDIS Operational Procedures. As such, the CODIS Agency must take the leadership role in developing forensic Rapid DNA programs with law enforcement partner agencies.

Resources:

- Identify sustainable funding sources for the purchase of Rapid DNA instruments, reagents, and instrument maintenance agreements.
- Partner Agency requires a Lead Rapid DNA Operator who is the main POC for the CODIS Laboratory.
- Consider whether a regional concept may be most appropriate. Rapid DNA instruments must be run regularly and multiple law enforcement agencies sharing one instrument and location may be a better option.
- Rapid DNA data and case information must be securely transferred to the CODIS laboratory for CODIS eligibility, profile determination to upload/search CODIS, and reporting.
 - Collaborate with the CODIS Laboratory to develop Forensic Rapid DNA procedures that follow Rapid DNA requirements outlined in the FBI's 2025 Forensic QAS and NDIS Operational Procedures.
- Important documents to assist with requirements for implementation will be published on le.fbi.gov as they are approved and/or effective. These documents include:
 - [Guide to All Things Rapid DNA](#)
 - [Crime Scene Rapid DNA Requirements for CODIS](#) developed by the CJIS Advisory Policy Board's Rapid DNA Task Force
 - Forensic Rapid DNA specific Quality Assurance Standards incorporated into the Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories available at [SWGAM.org](https://www.swgdam.org)
 - 2025 Quality Assurance Standards Guidance Document available at [SWGAM.org](https://www.swgdam.org)
 - Forensic Rapid DNA specific NDIS Operational Procedures incorporated into the NDIS Operational Procedure Manual (anticipated mid 2025)

For more information, please visit <https://le.fbi.gov/science-and-lab/biometrics-and-fingerprints/codis/rapid-dna>.