



The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

"Excellence Through Leadership in Forensic Science Management"

ASCLD BOARD POSITION STATEMENT

CODIS ACCESS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

ASCLD believes CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) should remain an inherent governmental function.

- ASCLD does not support private sector laboratory access to CODIS. Permitting private sector laboratories to access CODIS would jeopardize the security of the confidential genetic information housed in the database. If private laboratories were allowed access to CODIS this could affect individual state statutes regarding arrestee and offender legislation, since legislation was based on the balance of privacy interests of arrestees and offenders versus the government's interest in seizing, processing, and searching DNA for identification database purposes.
- Private sector laboratories would receive potentially sensitive and confidential information related to open law enforcement investigations without the existing safeguards present within public forensic laboratories.
- Long-term continuity regarding the ownership, availability and maintenance of DNA data generated and submitted to CODIS by private laboratories who discontinue providing that forensic service is not practical.

As of January 2014, the National DNA Index (NDIS) contains over 10,728,589 offender profiles, 1,773,762 arrestee profiles and 537,377 forensic profiles. These profiles must be maintained in a secure environment. Crime laboratories around the United States input thousands of DNA profiles each day into CODIS from both crime scenes and/or offender/arrestee samples. We owe it to the public at large to protect the genetic information from an outside entity. CODIS should remain an essential government function.

ASCLD Board
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