2.0 – Goals and Objectives

2.1 Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) § 40-35-321 mandates that the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation collect biological samples for DNA analysis. Refer to Appendix B for further TCA details. The state CODIS unit is responsible for processing all convicted offender and arrestee samples for the State of Tennessee.

2.1.1 TCA § 40-35-321 was modified from an original 1991 law that required samples to be collected from sex offenders to include the collection of biological samples for DNA from persons convicted of any felony offense committed on or after July 1, 1998.

2.1.2 TCA § 40-35-321 was amended again in 2007 to require samples to be collected from individuals arrested after January 1, 2008, of certain felony offenses. The sample shall be taken by the arresting authority after determination by a magistrate or a grand jury that probable cause exists for the arrest but prior to the person's release from custody.

2.1.3 TCA § 40-35-321 was amended again in 2012. This amendment added additional offenses to the list of offenses to be taken upon arrest. The amendment also included a fee of $37.00 to be collected from felony offenders upon collection of their samples. $22.00 of the fee will be for the TBI to cover the cost of processing the DNA profile.

2.2 TCA § 40-39-203 was amended in 2008 to include the collection of those individuals required to register on the Tennessee Sexual Offender Registry and whose DNA profile is not previously on file.

2.3 The TBI shall maintain, preserve, and analyze biological samples obtained in accordance with TCA § 38-6-113.

2.3.1 The state CODIS unit will maintain a centralized system to cross-reference data obtained from DNA analysis performed in all three TBI laboratories and the Metro Nashville PD crime lab. This system will contain convicted offender, qualifying arrestee, unknown forensic, unidentified human remains, missing person, and permitted suspect profiles.

2.4 The DNA profiles are to be stored in a database for the purpose of assisting federal, state, and local criminal justice and law enforcement agencies within and outside Tennessee in the identification, detection, or exclusion of individuals who
are subjects of the investigation of sex related crimes, homicides or other crimes and the identification and location of missing persons and unidentified persons.