

# TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Forensic Services Division



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### CODIS Standard Operating Procedures Manual

#### 8.0 Unidentified Bodies

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## 8.0 – UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN REMAINS

- 8.1 Samples received into the laboratory from an unidentified body are processed through Evidence Receiving and are considered evidentiary samples. Samples could also be from individuals unable or unwilling to identify themselves. Each sample is given a unique lab number and exhibit number.
- 8.2 Sample types
- 8.2.1 Liquid blood may be accepted into the laboratory. A blood stain card is prepared following the TBI Forensic Biology Policy and Procedure Guidelines. The stain card shall be labeled with the lab and exhibit number, date the card was prepared, and initials of person making swatch. After air drying overnight, the swatch is placed into a Ziploc bag and stored at room temperature until ready for analysis. Safety Procedures as described in Forensic Biology Unit Policy and Procedures, STR Typing Manual, and the TBI Safety Manual shall be followed when handling blood samples.
- 8.2.2 Dried blood may be accepted into the laboratory and shall be stored at room temperature until ready for analysis.
- 8.2.3 Tissue samples may be used if no blood is available and should be frozen at -20° C until ready for analysis.
- 8.2.4 Buccal samples may be accepted and are stored at room temperature.
- 8.3 DNA Analysis
- 8.3.1 Samples are processed at TBI in accordance with the current TBI PCR-Based STR Typing Protocol. A portion of sample may be forwarded for mitochondrial analysis if the body remains unidentified upon completion of the case. The TBI routinely uses The Center for Human Identification at the University of North Texas (UNT). Submittal of the sample shall follow the guidelines provided by the UNT facility, which can be obtained on the UNT website. Samples can also be forwarded to the FBI laboratory for testing.
- 8.3.2 Samples processed at the Metro Nashville PD (MNP) crime lab shall be subject to their own policies and procedures and NDIS policies and procedures. TBI will maintain all profiles offered to SDIS by the MNP for unidentified human remains.

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8.4 Reporting DNA Results

8.4.1 The Official Forensic Biology report for evidentiary samples will indicate that analysis was performed on the sample. Standardized report statements (Section 5.7) may be utilized and shall indicate that the DNA results obtained were entered into an **Unidentified Human (Remains)** index. The report must also reflect that the sample is being forwarded if needed for mitochondrial analysis. In the event the submitting agency requests the DNA profile, a memo on TBI letterhead may be issued listing the DNA profile results obtained.