FORENSIC SERVICES LABORATORY

UPDATE TO CUSTOMER SERVICE NOTICE 2024-03
May 14, 2025

OUTSOURCING OF DNA CASES

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Forensic Services Laboratory continually strives to remain responsive to the needs of its customers.

Due to the high demand for DNA analysis, and in an effort to reduce the number of cases awaiting analysis, the SLED Forensic Services Laboratory, through the DNA Casework Department and funding from the Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) grant, has the opportunity to outsource DNA analysis of untested cases currently at SLED to private vendor laboratories. Cases eligible for outsourcing, to include sexual assault kits, must be confirmed as active by the investigating law enforcement agency.

Vendor laboratories utilized must be accredited and must process casework samples in accordance with the *FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories*. These are the same standards that govern DNA analysis at SLED. **Final reports issued by the vendor laboratory are reviewed by qualified DNA analysts at SLED. Additionally, DNA analysts at SLED will review generated analytical data for qualifying DNA profiles to be entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).** Once the review process is complete, the vendor report is made available on iLab.

The vendor laboratory must answer any subpoena for expert testimony and documentation and/or answer any discovery requests or court orders for documentation/records in connection with any SLED contracted testing. Expert testimony related expenses are included in the outsourcing contract.

Outsourcing programs are continually monitored for quality and effectiveness. If you have any questions or concerns, or if for any reason your agency chooses not to participate, you may contact Lt. Donna Money at (803) 896-4407 or at dnaoutsourcing@sled.sc.gov.