DNA: CODIS Matches

CODIS Administrator
QAS 5.3.4.5 12.6

The CODIS Administrator will review and disposition any potential matches in accordance with NDIS operational procedures. A candidate match occurs when CODIS makes an association between two or more DNA profiles. If a disposition is unclear, the analyst may be asked to review the candidate match and determine the disposition.

Disposition definitions

The following are definitions of some common candidate match dispositions. Refer to the current NDIS Operational Procedures for definitions of additional dispositions.

- *Arrestee Hit:* An Arrestee Hit is a match between an arrestee's DNA profile and the DNA profile from a forensic sample in an unsolved forensic case.
- *Offender Hit:* An Offender Hit is a match between an offender's DNA profile and the DNA profile from a forensic sample in an unsolved forensic case.
- *Legal Index Hit:* A Legal Index Hit is a match between a profile in the legal index and a forensic sample in an unsolved forensic case.
- *Conviction Match:* A Conviction Match occurs when CODIS matches a DNA profile developed from a forensic sample to a DNA profile from an offender sample but the crime has already been solved.
- *Forensic Hit:* A Forensic Hit is a match between a DNA profile from a forensic sample in an unsolved case and a DNA profile from a forensic sample in a different case. This match is the first indication the two cases are linked.
- *State Defined #1:* This disposition is used when a DNA profile from a forensic sample in one case matches a forensic sample in another case but one or both cases have already been solved. This disposition is used for SDIS matches only.
- *Duplicate:* This disposition is used when a forensic sample matches to two or more offender samples with the same DNA profile on the same day. One match will be dispositioned as an offender hit while the remaining matches will be dispositioned as "Duplicate".
- *Investigative information:* This disposition is used as a generic category for matches that do not readily fit the other dispositions.
- *No Match:* This disposition is used when a potential match between two samples is determined not to be a true match.

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Review of dispositions and reporting	The following review is done for each type of dispositioned match:

- *Arrestee Hit/Offender Hit/Legal Index Hit*
  - A qualified analyst will review the hit and then issue a report that will include the name of the offender. This report (typically a *CODIS Hit Notification* report) will be made available to the submitting agency.
  - For SDIS hits, the submitting agency will also be notified through CHOP (CODIS Hit Outcome Project), providing the agency has submitted the CHOP user application form.
  - These hits will be stored in a logbook.
- *Forensic Hit/State Defined #1*
  - A qualified analyst will review the hit and then issue a report in each laboratory case involved. This report (typically a *CODIS Hit Notification* report) will be made available to the submitting agency. This report should include the investigating officer's contact information if known.
  - For SDIS hits, the submitting agency will also be notified through CHOP.
  - In the event that one case is solved and the other is not, the name of the individual matching the evidence profile may be released to the other agency.
- *Conviction Match*
  - The CODIS Administrator will verify that the name reported in the case file matches the name of the offender typically with an email to the laboratory associated with the offender's sample.
  - Email communication will be stored in a logbook.
- *No Match*
  - The qualified analyst will review "No Match" dispositions to confirm the disposition.
  - After the review, the analyst will initial and date the entry in the appropriate logbook.

Offender hit confirmation	In order to confirm an offender hit, the laboratory must receive and analyze a reference sample.

Notification of matches	On a weekly basis, the CODIS Administrator will notify the unit of all SDIS and NDIS possible hits.