Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search (FGGS) Virtual Panel Meeting

May 6, 2026


Welcome

Overview of Sub-Panel Meeting

- Gather insight on the licensing board requirement
- Research other states for similar models
- Information from Investigative Genetic Genealogy Accreditation Board
- Draft letter of support with amendments for Senate Bill 678

March 4, 2026: Sub-Panel Meeting

- Reviewed states that implemented forensic genetic genealogy regulations
- Maryland is most advanced with regulations compared to other states
- Licensing board requirement was not modeled after another state
- Efforts to identify a current estimated cost to establish the licensing board
- Information about forensic science rather than forensic genetic genealogy
- Activities of the Investigative Genetic Genealogy Accreditation Board
- Senate Bill 678 and draft letter of support with amendments

March 4, 2026: Follow-up Item

- Follow-up with the Investigative Genetic Genealogy Accreditation Board for more insight on whether having a license changes a person’s access to records and documents about people and personal identifying information.

Data Collection Efforts



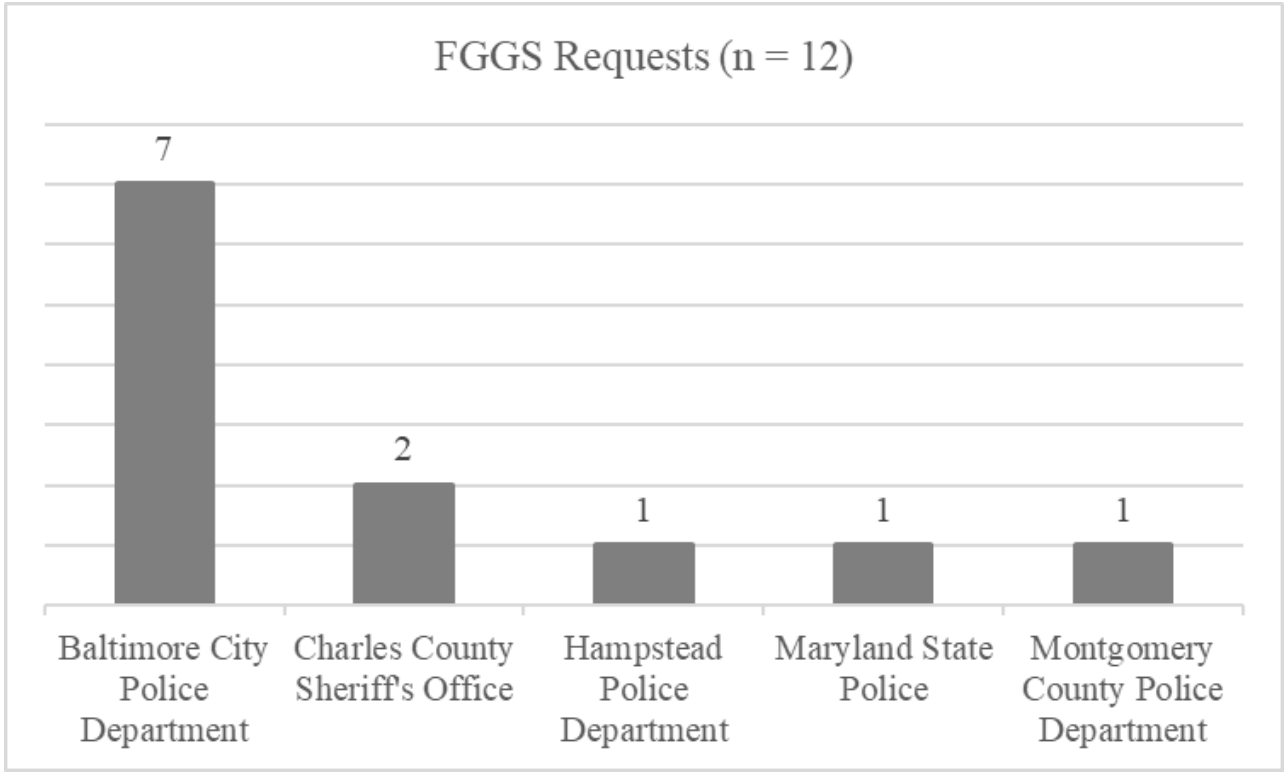
2025 Report Findings: Agencies

- **42 Police Departments**: Annapolis, Baltimore, Bel Air, Berlin, Berwyn Heights, Boonsboro, Chestertown, Cheverly, Chevy Chase, City of Mount Rainier, Colmar Manor, Crisfield, Denton, Easton, Elkton, Fruitland, Gaithersburg, Greenbelt, Hamstead, La Plata, Landover, Laurel, Manchester, Maryland Natural Resources Police, Maryland State Police, MC Park, Montgomery County, Morningside, Mount Airy, New Carrollton, North East, Pittsville, Pocomoke, Rising Sun, Riverdale, RockHall, Smithsburg, Snow Hill, St. Michaels, Sykesville, Taneytown, and Town of Upper Marlboro

2025 Report Findings: Agencies (Cont.)

- **8 College/University Police Departments**: Anne Arundel, Bowie, Frostburg, Hagerstown, Salisbury, Towson, Maryland, and Maryland Baltimore
- **12 Sheriff's Offices**: Allegany, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Garrett, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Talbot, and Washington

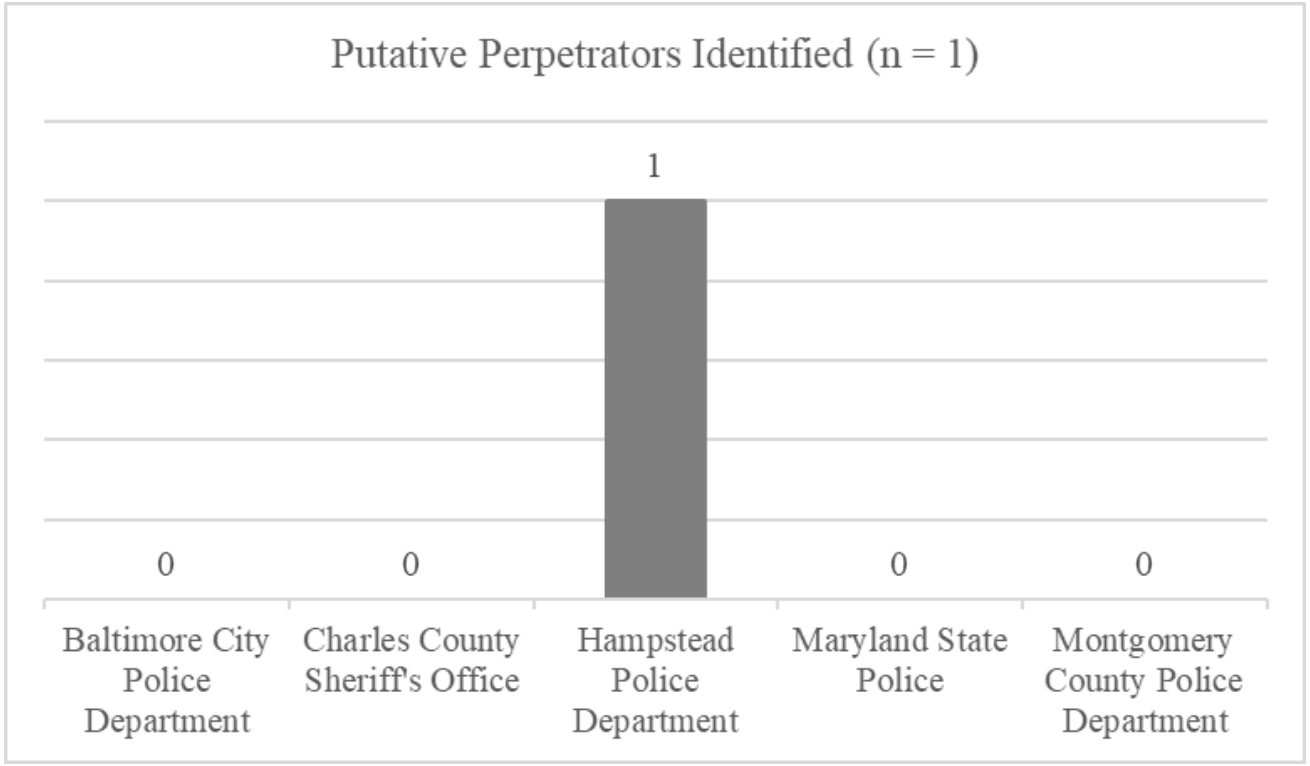
2025 Report Findings: FGGS Requests



2025 Report Findings: Investigative Leads

- Known party verified contact with contraband
- Issued media release and teletypes to illicit suspects
- Tested other physical evidence recovered at the scene
- Eliminated several serial rapists and ruled out similar offenders
- Identified no new traditional investigative steps that would further case
- Re-interviewed the victim’s family, friends, and original personnel
- Searched latent prints through State/national databases
- Re-evaluated evidence
- Attempts to develop SNP profile suitable for FGG failed

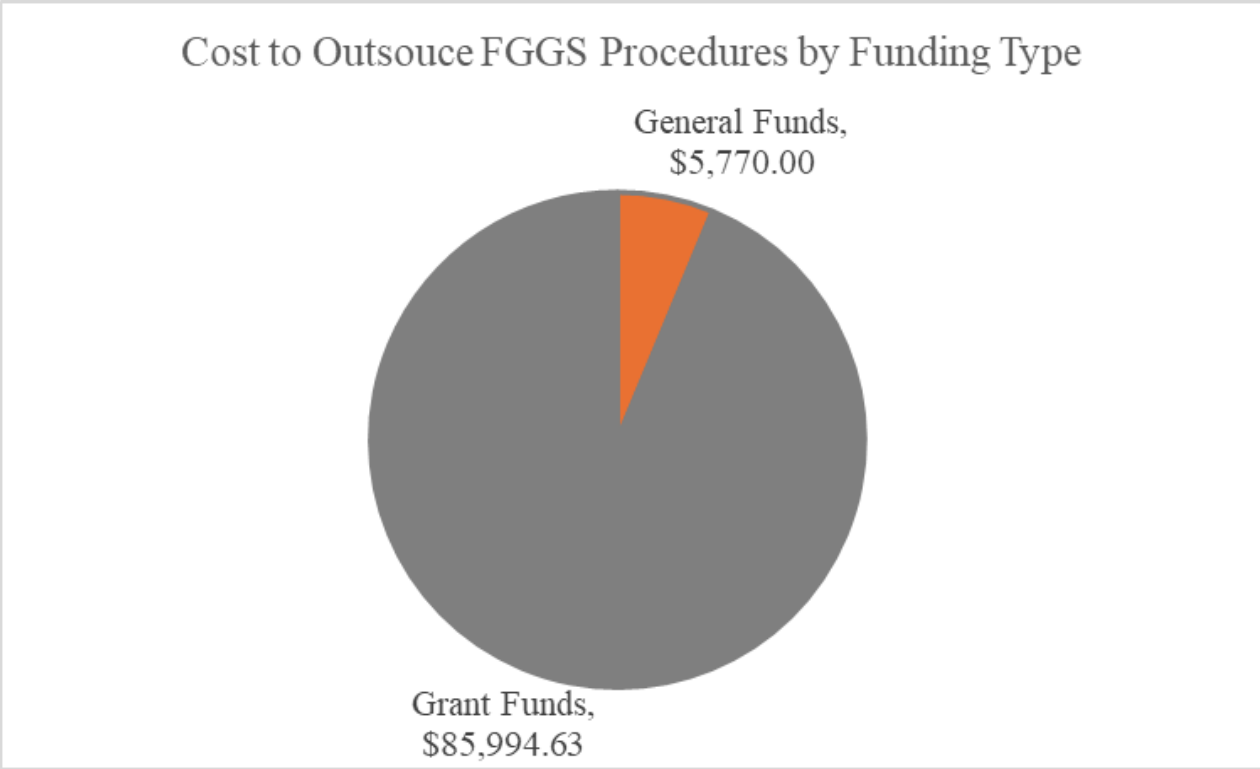
2025 Report Findings: Putative Perpetrators



2025 Report Findings: Third Party References

- Hampstead Police Department collected sample for individual identified as White and 44 years old
- Maryland State Police collected sample for individual identified as White and 40 years old
- Montgomery County Police Department collected sample for individual identified as Other race

2025 Report Findings: Outsource Costs



Successes & Challenges

- **Successes**: Increased data submissions compared to prior year
- **Challenges**: Limited number of data submissions on behalf of State

Efforts to Address Identified Needs



Identified Needs and Information

1. Information on the destruction of covertly collected samples
2. Finalize the draft FIGG licensing requirements and regulations
3. Include year-over-year case information in annual reports
4. Develop resource materials to illustrate and explain the FGGS process
5. Identify funding opportunities for laboratories to process FGGS requests

#1. Destruction of Covertly Collected Samples

Coming Soon!

#2. Licensing Requirements and Regulations

- Prior sub-panel meeting included a review of the licensing board requirement, if other states have a model, and steps to move forward.
- Examine Maryland's existing certification process for chemists to potentially serve as a model for certifying genetic genealogists.
- Received insight on COMAR 10.10.09.03, COMAR 10.10.09.02, and COMAR 10.10.09.04 regarding the certification, training, and identification procedures for chemists, chemical analysts, and analysts; and the *Forensic Chemists and Analysts Training and Procedures Manual* from 1992.

#2. Licensing Requirements (Cont.)

- Contacted State Board of Physicians regarding the possibility of adding a licensing type specific to genetic genealogy; and if the Board would provide oversight of those genealogists.
- Received recommendation to amend the statute to remove the individual-level licensing requirement and instead regulate genetic genealogists under forensic laboratories licensed by the Maryland Department of Health - Office of Health Care Quality.

#2. Licensing Requirements (Cont.)

- Met with the Investigative Genetic Genealogy Accreditation Board regarding licensed and/or accredited individuals' access to vital and personally identifying records; their involvement with other states; advantages and disadvantages of the Investigative Genetic Genealogy process; and how the Board can aid the panel/sub-panel.
- Next sub-panel meeting to discuss insight regarding the received recommendations and feedback, as well as the impact of each.

#3. Year-Over-Year Case Information

Coming Soon!

#4. Resource Materials

Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search

Section 17-105 of the Criminal Procedure Article requires a report on requests for forensic genetic genealogical analysis for the preceding year. State's attorney's offices and law enforcement agencies should submit information to the center by **March 1 of each year**.

- Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search (FGGS): Data Definitions and Reporting Guide
- Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search (FGGS): Pre- and Post-Authorization Process
- Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search (FGGS) Survey (Qualtrics)

NOTE: Information should only be submitted on cases that resulted in a signed affidavit in order to test the DNA digital file.

#4. Resource Materials (Cont.)

NCJTC National Criminal Justice Training Center *of* Fox Valley Technical College



Enhancing Investigations through Genetic Genealogy

Explore and discuss the application of Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG) and the ways it aids in investigations. Techniques instructed will include tips in using genealogy to help establish the identities of cold case suspects and assist with identifying human remains. Instruction is provided by experienced investigators who have gained expert knowledge in their application of forensic genetic genealogy through real-life cases. Discuss topics including forensic genealogy techniques and investigative strategies for developing leads and information, as well as working with private labs and other related resources.

#5. Funding Opportunities

- U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance recently released one funding opportunity relating to forensic sciences; however, it is specific to Sexual Assault Kit Initaitive (SAKI) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Program.
- Forensic sciences-related funding opportunities to be shared with the panel once it becomes available.

Discussion

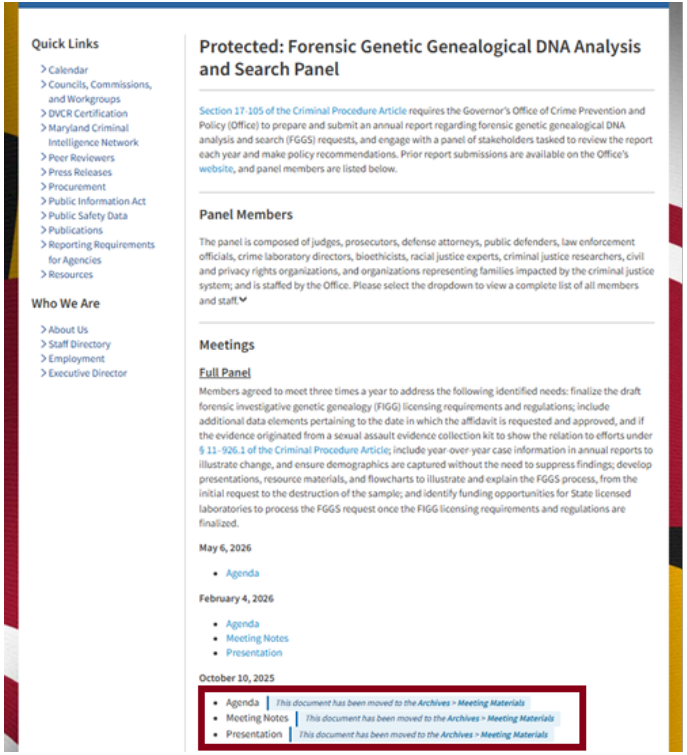


Recommendation to Improve Data Collection

- Should the panel consider recommendations to improve data collection?
- Should the panel consider additional resource materials?


Q & A

Americans with Disabilities Act: Efforts



Quick Links

> Calendar
> Councils, Commissions, and Workgroups
> DVCR Certification
> Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network
> Peer Reviewers
> Press Releases
> Procurement
> Public Information Act
> Public Safety Data
> Publications
> Reporting Requirements for Agencies
> Resources

Who We Are

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Protected: Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search Panel

Section 17-105 of the Criminal Procedure Article requires the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (Office) to prepare and submit an annual report regarding forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis and search (FGGS) requests, and engage with a panel of stakeholders tasked to review the report each year and make policy recommendations. Prior report submissions are available on the Office's website, and panel members are listed below.

Panel Members

The panel is composed of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, public defenders, law enforcement officials, crime laboratory directors, bioethicists, racial justice experts, criminal justice researchers, civil and privacy rights organizations, and organizations representing families impacted by the criminal justice system; and is staffed by the Office. Please select the dropdown to view a complete list of all members and staff.

Meetings

Full Panel

Members agreed to meet three times a year to address the following identified needs: finalize the draft forensic investigative genetic genealogy (FIGG) licensing requirements and regulations; include additional data elements pertaining to the date in which the affidavit is requested and approved, and if the evidence originated from a sexual assault evidence collection kit to show the relation to efforts under § 11-926.1 of the Criminal Procedure Article; include year-over-year case information in annual reports to illustrate change, and ensure demographics are captured without the need to suppress findings; develop presentations, resource materials, and flowcharts to illustrate and explain the FGGS process, from the initial request to the destruction of the sample; and identify funding opportunities for State licensed laboratories to process the FGGS request once the FIGG licensing requirements and regulations are finalized.

May 6, 2026

- Agenda

February 4, 2026

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes
- Presentation

October 10, 2025

- Agenda | *This document has been moved to the Archives > Meeting Materials*
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Thank You