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

October 10, 2025


Welcome

Introductions

- Heather Amador (GOCPP)
- Yanet Amanuel (ACLU)
- Jenn Breaux (MCPD)
- Robin Jill Bright (Judge, Prince George's)
- June Chung (GOCPP)
- Chris D'Amario (MDH)
- Kelly Elkins (TU)
- Nancy Frigo (OAG)
- Jeffrey Gilleran (OPD)
- Martin Hammond (GOCPP)
- Laura Jessick (MCASA)
- Dan Katz (MSP)
- Rachel Kesselman Leonberger (GOCPP)
- Kristen Lease (PGPD)
- Tracy Majors (GOCPP)
- Jennifer Moran (BPD)
- Nick Picerno (MCPD)
- Michael Pinard (UMB)
- Natalie Ram (UMB)
- Sam Shaw (GOCPP)
- Scott Shellenberger (State's Attorney, Baltimore County)
- Emily Shetty (Delegate, Montgomery)
- Charles Sydnor (Senator, Baltimore County)
- Jeff Zuback (GOCPP)

Overview of Sub-Panel Meeting

Investigative Genetic Genealogy Accreditation Board

- Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG) licensing standards
- Standards and accreditation requirements
- Multi-stage exam development process
- Beta testing and revisions
- Accreditation and re-accreditation process
- Formation of a membership organization

Efforts to Address Identified Needs

Background



Identified Needs and Information

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

#1. Destruction of Third Party Samples

The sample was processed by the commercial company FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA). Once the detective determined that the sample was not a match to John Doe's family line, law enforcement informed John Doe that the sample was not a match.

Because John Doe did not want to transfer the FTDNA kit into his name, which would have stored his information in the system to be used in comparison to other samples, law enforcement and FTDNA destroyed the sample. Once the DNA sample was destroyed, law enforcement and FTDNA sent an electronic confirmation of its destruction to John Doe.

#2. Licensing Requirements and Regulations

Formed sub-panel to help finalize the draft requirements and regulations

- Initial sub-panel meeting included an Investigative Genetic Genealogy Accreditation Board presentation
- Next sub-panel meeting to discuss if Maryland should partner with the Board to require the IGG Accreditation Exam as a component of the draft licensing regulations that are proposed to be COMAR 10.51.09 (IGG Minimum Qualifications)

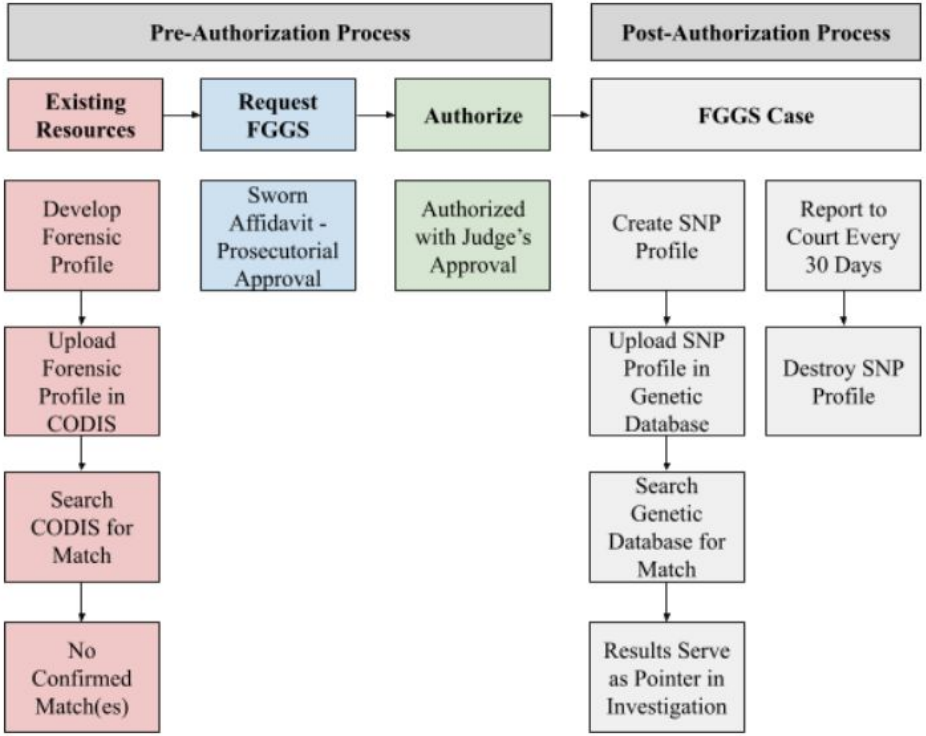
#3. Data Elements

- Requested affidavit date
- Prosecutor approved affidavit date
- Judge approved affidavit date
- Origination of evidence

#4. Year-Over-Year Case Information

Coming Soon!

#5. Resource Materials



#6. Funding Opportunities

- Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence: Subject to the DOJ Interim Policy on FGG DNA Analysis and Searching or the final policy
- DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) – Competitive Grants Program: FGG DNA analysis expenses are not allowed
- DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) – Formula Grants Program: FGG DNA analysis expenses are not allowed

Discussion

Recommendations



Data Definitions and Reporting Guide

Recommended Changes?

Pre- and Post-Authorization Process

Recommended Changes?


Q & A


Thank You