

# The COmbined DNA Index System Newsletter

October 2009

## CODIS Reaches 1000th Hit with South Park Case

In July 2009, the Washington State Patrol's CODIS Laboratory celebrated its 1000th hit, which involved DNA associated with the South Park case. The suspect had broken into the home of two women resulting in the death of one woman and the other was seriously injured. DNA was submitted from the South Park crime scene but it did not match any profiles in the convicted offender database of CODIS. It did match, however, to DNA recovered from an Auburn burglary. The surveillance video from that burglary was distributed to various agencies, and detectives in Pierce County recognized the suspect in the video. This allowed the Seattle Police to apprehend the suspect.

Most CODIS hits are profiles developed from crime scene samples matching to a sample in the state's convicted offender database, which is made up of profiles from people convicted of certain crimes. The DNA profile from a crime scene is entered, and if a matching profile is in the database, the system responds within a few seconds. In this case, pairing up sample profiles from two unsolved crimes was sufficient to trigger an identification and arrest.

Washington's first recorded CODIS hit was in May of 2001. It involved a rape case from the Arizona Department of Public Safety that matched to a DNA sample from a convicted offender here in WA. From 2001 through September of 2009, this extremely powerful tool has aided hundreds of investigations including homicides, sexual assaults, robberies, and burglaries.

### Special Points of Interest

- CODIS REACHES 1000TH HIT
- BATCH SAMPLES
- POSTAGE DUE
- NOTE: CORRECTION REGARDING DEFERRED DISPOSITION
- COLLECTION INFORMATION AND REMINDERS



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**Please send your samples to the CODIS lab weekly. It is important your samples are received in a timely manner. Also, please remember to include the appropriate postage on the outer envelopes when submitting completed kits by mail.**

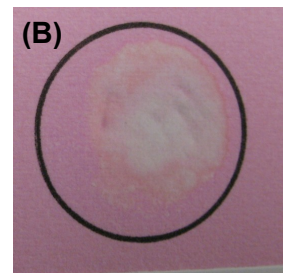
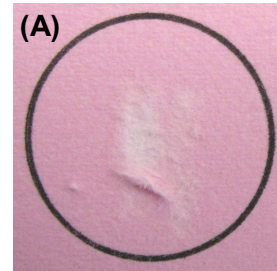
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## Correction to the April 2009 Newsletter Regarding Deferred Disposition

**CORRECTION:** The April 2009 newsletter indicated that samples should not be collected for juvenile offenders on deferred disposition programs unless the offender failed to complete the program. This statement was actually intended to apply to offenders on diversion programs, not deferred disposition programs. The corrected statement is as follows: For agencies who have offenders on **diversion** programs, please do not collect a sample unless the offender fails to complete the program and is thus found guilty of a qualifying offense. As offenders on **deferred disposition** programs must initially agree to a finding or plea of guilt (per RCW 13.40.127), please continue to collect samples from those with a qualifying offense.

## Important Collection Information

- ◆ Please do not fill out multiple convicted offender submission cards with offender information prior to collection. Each offender card should be completed one at a time and while the offender is present for the actual collection. This prevents an incorrect sample from being collected. In addition, one person should be performing the sample collection *and* signing the submission card and envelope.
- ◆ When recollection of a DNA sample is requested by the CODIS Laboratory, it is very important that *both* the DNA and the fingerprints are recollected before submission.
- ◆ To ensure good DNA results, please remember to rock the foam paddle back and forth on the paper, rather than using a rubbing motion to prevent tearing of the paper (A). The paper should turn from pink to white in color (B).



**Thank you for your continued efforts with the collection process. The CODIS lab has already recorded over 200 hits in 2009!**

## As a Reminder...

When submitting reference samples to DNA Casework, please do not use the Convicted Offender Cards. These kits are specifically for use with the Convicted Offender Program only. Please refer to the Forensic Services Guide for instructions on collecting reference samples. The most recent edition can be found at the following link:  
[http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/docs/bureau/fsg\\_0708\\_rev4.pdf](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/docs/bureau/fsg_0708_rev4.pdf)

Contact the CODIS Laboratory at 206-262-6020 or [confel@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:confel@wsp.wa.gov)