



Wayne Stenehjem  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE CAPITOL  
600 E BOULEVARD AVE DEPT 125  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0040  
(701) 328-2210  
www.ag.nd.gov

## Memo

**From:** Eddie Aamold, Director  
ND Crime Lab

**Date:** May 15, 2017

**Re:** Property crime cases

---

Over the past 5 years, the crime lab has seen a steady increase in the number of property crime cases submitted for forensic testing. We believe this could be due to a rise in the number of property crimes throughout the state, but also due to improving technology in the lab. Because of the great strides we've made in our ability to provide investigative leads on these cases through DNA and fingerprint testing, agencies continue to see the benefit of identifying and collecting this evidence from crime scenes. Our goal at the crime lab, then, is to ensure that we're working on these cases as efficiently as possible in an attempt to provide those investigate leads to you in a timely manner. In recent weeks, I've had the great opportunity to speak with many of you and discuss our services at the crime lab. I've heard several things that you like about the crime lab and also things that we can strive to improve on. One concern that was frequently shared during these visits was the turn-around time of DNA testing on property crime cases. Hearing those concerns, we've developed a plan to help produce results on those cases faster and more efficiently.

Beginning this summer, we've made plans to collaborate with another forensic laboratory, Sorenson Forensics in Salt Lake City, Utah to conduct forensic DNA analysis on property crime cases submitted to the North Dakota Crime Lab. I'm confident that through this partnership, we'll be able to process the pending cases we have here at the lab. I am asking that if your agency has any previously unsubmitted evidence from property crime cases that you would like to consider submitting as part of this project, please contact me at the crime lab. We anticipate that through this project we'll work through at least 150 cases throughout the summer. That includes not only conducting the analysis, but also uploading eligible DNA profiles to CODIS in an attempt to provide investigative leads on previously unsolved cases.

As we begin to send cases to Sorenson Forensics, we will notify your agency that you have cases included in this project. We realize that some of these cases may eventually go to trial and have made plans for that. Rest assured that if any of the cases within this project do go to trial, we will work together with your agency and Sorenson Forensics to ensure we have resources available to present this information in court. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I'm looking forward to working with you on this project and am excited to see the success we have in working through these cases. ■