Deceased Persons Identification Requests
Differences Across Systems

Multiple systems exist for collecting and sharing information for deceased persons identification requests. Knowing which system to search can help resolve these cases.

System		Submission Type/Request Type	Retained	Contact
	Next Generation Identification (NGI) System	· Available to authorized criminal justice agencies (CJAs), medical examiners, and coroners. · Submit biometric searches using the Electronic Biometric Transmission Specification (EBTS) Unknown Deceased and Known Deceased types of transactions (TOT).	Yes	DPIServices@fbi.gov SPC_Team@fbi.gov
	NGI System Latent Print Unit	· Available to authorized CJAs. · Submit biometric searches using the Latent Friction Ridge Feature Search TOT. · May enroll in the Unsolved Latent File.	Optional	Latent@ic.fbi.gov 703-632-8446
	National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Missing Person File and Unidentified Persons File	· Available to authorized CJAs, medical examiners, and coroners. · Enter missing persons in the Missing Person File using the appropriate message key (MKE) based on the following entry criteria: Disability (MKE/EMD), Endangered (MKE/EME), Involuntary (MKE/EMI), Juvenile (MKE/EMJ), Catastrophe Victim (MKE/EMV) and Other (MKE/EMO). · Enter information in the Unidentified Person File using the appropriate MKE based on the following entry criteria: Deceased (MKE/EUD), Living (MKE/EUL), Catastrophe Victim (MKE/EUV). · Query the Missing Person File using the Query Wanted (QW) inquiry message (searches a variety of person files) or the Query Missing (QM) inquiry message to query the Missing Person File directly. · Query the Unidentified Person File using the Query Unidentified (QU) inquiry message. · Coordinate offline searches with NCIC staff. · May contain an NCIC Fingerprint/Classification.	Yes, with a validation requirement	IOAU@fbi.gov 304-625-3000
	National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)	· Available to authorized CJAs, medical examiners, coroners, and private citizens. · Query using the Advanced Search through Missing Person Database and the Advanced Search through Unidentified Person Database. · Use the Missing Person Case Entry and the Unidentified Person Case Entry to submit missing persons and unidentified remains. · Conduct fingerprint searches by contacting the appropriate NamUs Regional Program Specialist.	Yes	https://namus.nij.ojp.gov/contact
	National Data Exchange (N-DEx) System	· Available to authorized CJAs to submit biographic searches using one of three search types: · Simple Search—Uses a Google-like search with result filters. · Advanced Search—Allows for more specific search criteria. · Targeted Search—Provides a more focused search using entities such as people, vehicles, phone numbers, locations, and crime characteristics.	Yes	Ndex@leo.gov 304-625-0555
	National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)	· Available to all CJAs, medical examiners, and coroners that have a case of an unidentified juvenile (under 21 years of age). · Through missingkids.org use the search for unidentified children posters or the advanced geographical search feature using the mapping tool of all unidentified children to query NCMEC. · Contact 24-Hour Call Center to report a case of an unidentified deceased juvenile. · NCMEC coordinates with U.S. Secret Service for fingerprint coding, comparison, and upload into the NGI System. · Conduct fingerprint searches by contacting the assigned Case Manager or the Forensic Services Unit Program Specialist.	Yes	forensics@ncmec.org 800-THE-LOST
	State Criminal History Record Systems	· Available to authorized CJAs, medical examiners, and coroners. · Submit biographic queries of the International Public Safety and Justice Network (NLETS) and biometric searches using EBTS TOTs. · May contain records that are not fingerprint-supported.	Yes	State Identification Bureau or Criminal Justice Information Services Agency
	Additional Data Sources— Departments of Motor Vehicles, Consular Offices, Family-submitted fingerprints	· May be available to authorized CJAs, medical examiners, and coroners. · Contact these agencies to determine if biometric and biographic searches are available. · May locate biometric records that can be used for comparison.	Yes	Varies by state and agency

Non-Fingerprint-Based Services	Contact Information
FBI Laboratory Division Forensic Anthropology Program *Biometric Submission*	703-632-8449
National Dental Image Repository *Biometric and Biographic Submission*	NDIR@leo.gov
Violent Criminal Apprehension Program *Biometric and Biographic Submission*	ViCAP@leo.gov
Combined DNA Index System *Biometric Submission*	703-632-8315
FBI Laboratory Division DNA Casework Unit *Biometric Submission*	703-632-8446
National Missing Person DNA Database Program *Biometric Submission*	703-632-8446

Also see:

Obtaining and Submitting Legible Fingerprints from Deceased Individuals—Quick Reference Guide, Deceased Persons Identification Best Practices Focus Group, 2022, https://fbibiospecs.fbi.gov.

At this time, only state fingerprint systems and the NGI System are linked.

There is no charge for these services.

This document was produced by the Deceased Persons Identification (DPI) Services Best Practices Focus Group, formed to close the identification gap for unknown deceased individuals. This group includes subject matter experts from the FBI; federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies; medical examiners and coroners; the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System; the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; the Black and Missing Foundation; the Doe Network; and The National Consortium of Justice Information and Statistics.

For more information, email DPIServices@fbi.gov.