

How Do I Obtain Dental Records for Missing Persons?

Dental records are best obtained during the first months of a missing person investigation. Many investigators delay obtaining dental records until a body is found and a positive identification is needed; however, records may be destroyed or lost if not obtained quickly. Investigators who require dental records for a missing person may use the standard NCIC medical/dental record release form. **NamUs** also has a Dental Record Request form that will indicate what a dental office should release to provide the most comprehensive dental record. A complete dental record should include:

- All written office treatment records
- All dental radiographs
- All dental photographs
- Dental models of teeth
- Any referrals to specialists that may have additional dental records

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National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

NamUs, www.namus.gov, fills the nation's need for a unified, online, free database system for unidentified remains and missing persons records. **NamUs.gov** is the one place where everyone interested in solving missing persons and unidentified decedent cases — law enforcement, medical examiners and coroners, victims advocates and families — can share information to help solve these difficult cases.



The NamUs program is funded through the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice Award No. 2011-MU-BX-K063. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.



NamUs is funded by the
National Institute of Justice
and managed by the
UNT Health Science Center
in partnership with the NIJ



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National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

NamUs

Odontology
Forensic Services

www.namus.gov



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get dental records to NamUs?

NamUs provides no-cost Federal Express service for the transfer and return of all dental evidence.

What about the NCIC dental records I need to submit to the FBI?

NamUs odontologists will also code and provide you with an NCIC dental record and worksheet for your terminal operator to upload the dental coding to NCIC.

Can't I just scan and upload the x-rays directly to NamUs?

X-rays require a special transparency scanner. Document scanners cannot be used effectively to scan x-rays. In addition, x-rays must be correctly oriented and are best scanned by a trained Forensic Odontologist.

Why can't I use the family dentist to code the NCIC and NamUs dental information?

While a dentist that is not a Forensic Odontologist may do this, it is best to use a Forensic Odontologist who is specifically trained to code dental records for NamUs and NCIC. Their expertise will greatly improve the quality of your dental entries.

What if possible dental matches are found?

NamUs odontologists can assist agencies with potential matches found in the NamUs database and through NCIC \$M reports.

Dental Records Are Important

Law enforcement officers, medical examiners and coroners rely on dental records to establish legal and verifiable identifications of missing and unidentified persons. The human tooth and the multitude of restorations possible within the 32 teeth can provide well-established biometric data for a particular individual. When dental x-rays are also available, the accuracy of biometric data is of even greater comparison value.

Dental records can be utilized to provide a rapid, detailed comparison between missing persons and unidentified decedents. This can yield a positive outcome in one day if dental records are available.



Utilizing NamUs and its in-house Forensic Odontologists, dental information can be coded and uploaded to the secure databases for 24/7 availability for professional comparisons. All dental and other biometric information is stored securely and can be accessed only by authorized law enforcement personnel, medical examiners, coroners and other allied professionals.

Contact A NamUs Odontologist

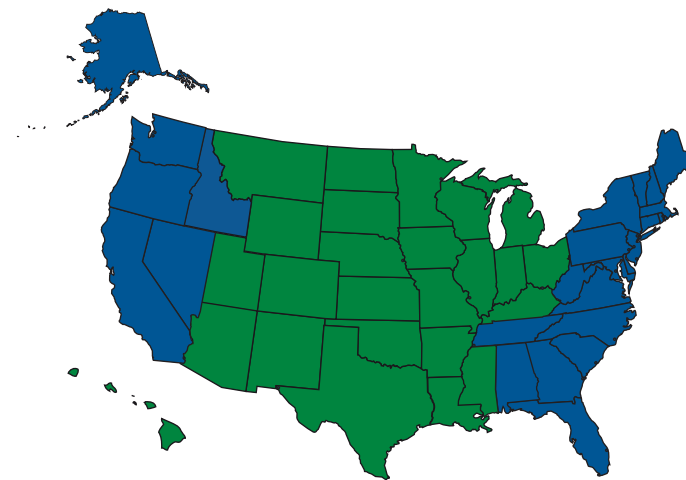
NamUs provides all odontology support FREE of charge. The NamUs Forensic Odontologists are trained and experienced in providing assistance with securing dental records, coding dental characteristics, and scanning/uploading dental images or treatment records, dental examination charts, and dental x-rays for instant access to investigators across the country.

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