

Certification as to the use of Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS
BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

Missing and Unidentified Human Remains (MUHR) Program

On behalf of the Award Recipient Agency named below, I certify to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice that:

In accordance with the [DOJ Interim Policy on Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Searching](#) ("Interim Policy on FGGS") and MUHR Program requirements, the following will be met for each Unidentified Human Remains (UHR) case involving FGG for which MUHR funding is used:

1. *The UHR will be submitted for entry into NamUS and ViCAP (where applicable) prior to proceeding with FGG.¹*
2. *The UHR will have a STR profile searching in CODIS.*
 - A STR profile from the UHR must have been searched in CODIS and yielded no probative hits. Because missing person-related DNA records are searched in NDIS on at least a monthly basis, sufficient time should be allowed for CODIS searches to occur before proceeding to FGG. BJA will consider exceptions (e.g., an immediate and ongoing threat to public safety) on a case-by-case basis.
 - If a STR profile is only searching in the SDIS or LDIS levels of CODIS, the feasibility of re-testing the sample to obtain a NDIS-eligible STR profile must be discussed with the CODIS laboratory before proceeding to FGG.
 - A second DNA technology (mtDNA or Y-STR as appropriate) for inclusion in CODIS must be attempted prior to proceeding to FGG. If a case has only a STR profile in CODIS (and not a second technology), permission will be needed from BJA **before** proceeding to FGG.
3. *The UHR will be a suspected homicide victim*
 - The use of MUHR funds for FGG is only permissible in those instances where the manner of death has been ruled as "homicide". Prior approval from BJA will be required prior to proceeding to FGG for cases where the manner of death is ruled as "undetermined" but in which investigators reasonably believe the remains are that of a suspected homicide victim. In these instances, BJA will seek confirmation that the investigating

¹ Please refer to the MUHR Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for any applicable definitions of terms contained herein.

agency and prosecutor with appropriate jurisdiction are investigating the case as a suspected homicide and agree to proceed with FGG.

4. *Investigator and Prosecutor concurrence will be obtained prior to proceeding with FGG*

- As outlined in Section VI in the Interim Policy on FGGS, both the law enforcement agency and prosecutor with jurisdiction over the criminal investigation must agree with proceeding with FGG. As part of this decision, parties should document their consultation with the laboratory that performed the CODIS upload of the UHR profile.

Furthermore, I submit that the DOJ Interim Policy on FGGS and MUHR program requirements will be followed in the investigation of any UHR case involving FGG for which MUHR funding is used and that the Principal Investigator, Prosecutor, Medical Examiner/Coroner and/or lead Investigator (and any other parties involved with the use of FGG associated with cases in the project) have been informed of the DOJ Interim Policy on FGGS and the content within this certification.

I hereby certify that the requirements set forth herein will be satisfied by the Award Recipient Agency and each entity that receives any funding under this award, regardless of the amount received. I further certify that I have the necessary authority to act on behalf of the Award Recipient Agency with respect to the representations contained herein.

Important Reminder: A false statement in the certification or in the grant application that it supports may be the subject of criminal prosecution, including under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and/or 1621 and 34 U.S.C. §§ 10271-10273. Office of Justice Programs grants, including certification provided in connection with such grants, are subject to review by the Office of Justice Programs and/or by the Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General.

Name of Applicant Agency (Agency applying for MUHR funding)

Signature of Authorized Representative	Signature of individual taking ownership of UHR case(s) ²
Printed Name	Printed Name
Title	Title
Date	Date

² Individual taking ownership of UHR case(s): Principal/Lead Investigator, Prosecutor, and/or Medical Examiner/Coroner.