



By a cop, for cops.

How to Choose the Right DNA Vendor

Protect Your Case, Budget, and Reputation

A practical guide to help law enforcement investigators select the best DNA vendor, avoid costly mistakes, and maintain control of their cases and reputation.



What's Inside



Choosing The Right DNA Test



Keeping Control of Your Case



Vetting Your Vendor



Avoiding Red Flags



Why This Matters

Get actionable questions, avoid common pitfalls, and make decisions that keep your agency and your cases secure. Designed for law enforcement, by law enforcement.

- ✔ Actionable Steps
- ✔ Saves Time
- ✔ Legal & Ethical Safety
- ✔ Built by an Investigator

Contact Us



Top Mistakes & Smart Questions for Law Enforcement

Don't let outside labs run your case.

This checklist keeps you in control and keeps your agency out of trouble.

1

Choosing the Wrong DNA Test

- **Mistake:** Paying for the most expensive option when an equally effective lower-priced test might be all you need.
- **Smart Question:** What test are you recommending and why? Are there cheaper, effective options?



2

Letting the Lab Drive the Investigation

- **Mistake:** Treating lab output as the “final word,” instead of running a real law enforcement investigation.
- **Smart Question:** Who directs the investigation—us or you? What support do you provide after lab results?



3

Not Maintaining Control of the Case

- **Mistake:** Losing access to logins, case updates, match info, or relying only on the lab for all next steps.
- **Smart Question:** Do we have full access to data, reports, and updates? Can we log into all platforms directly?



4

Not Background Checking the Vendor or Analysts

- **Mistake:** Not knowing who's actually doing the work—or if there are conflicts of interest or experience gaps.
- **Smart Question:** Who will handle our case? Do they have law enforcement case experience? Any conflicts?



5

Over-reliance on Reference Testing

- **Mistake:** Lab tells you to “go test these people” based on family matches—risking officer safety and privacy.
- **Smart Question:** How do you choose reference testing targets? What's your officer safety protocol?



MORE HELP ON THE FLIP SIDE 

6

Failure to Prove Identity—Risking Lawsuits

- **Mistake:** Sending cops to confront or collect samples from the wrong person—opening the door to lawsuits.
- **Smart Question:** How do you confirm ID before any field contact? Can you document your process?



7

Accepting Donations or Gifts Without Verifying the Source

- **Mistake:** Accepting vendor gifts or donations, risking legal and ethical issues.
- **Smart Question:** Are there any incentives, donations, or discounts? Where's the money coming from?



8

No Documentation or Case Records

- **Mistake:** Poor or missing records, making it impossible to review or defend a case later.
- **Smart Question:** Will you provide detailed documentation for every step? How long do you keep case records?



RED FLAGS

- !!! No agency access to data or case platforms
- !!! "Take it or leave it" pricing—no discussion of test options
- !!! No documentation or updates
- !!! No law enforcement background on the analyst team
- !!! Vendor suggests family confrontations without clear ID or safety protocols

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

- ✓ Who will work my case?
- ✓ Do we have ongoing access to all case files and updates?
- ✓ What safety protocols do you have for field work?
- ✓ Who owns the data and results?
- ✓ Will you testify in court?
- ✓ Any outside incentives or third-party funding?

Stay in control. Protect your cases. Get results you can stand behind.

FREE RESOURCE OFFER

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