

ALABAMA



State legislatures consider and enact laws that address the administration and use of forensic science by state justice systems. Issues addressed in these measures include the delegation of oversight responsibilities for forensic services, accreditation standards for forensic laboratories, access to post-conviction DNA testing, the collection and analysis of DNA samples from arrested and convicted individuals and procedures for eyewitness identification. Following is information on this state's legislative activity on forensic science issues. More information on forensic science policy from all 50 states and the District of Columbia is available on the NCSL [forensic science page](#).



Administration of State Forensic Services§§ 36-18-1 through 39

The state administers its forensic services through the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, which operates independently of any law enforcement or prosecutorial agency.

Convicted Offender DNA Analysis§ 36-18-25

People convicted of any felony or sex crime misdemeanor must submit a DNA sample to state officials. The state also collects DNA for those convicted of misdemeanors involving danger to the person. Sample collection applies to juveniles.

Arrestee DNA Analysis§ 36-18-25

People arrested for all felonies and sexual offenses, including some misdemeanors, must submit a DNA sample to state officials. The sample is collected at booking and the offender must consent in writing to the collection of the sample. The sample is expunged upon order of the circuit court. Sample collection applies to juveniles.

Post Conviction DNA Analysis§ 15-18-200

The state allows an individual convicted of a capital offense to apply for post-conviction DNA testing. Their application must assert that results of the test will demonstrate actual innocence. Applications must be submitted within one year of the conviction.
