

LOUISIANA



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§§ 15:605, 606, 608

The state administers its forensic services through the Louisiana State Police.

Convicted Offender DNA Analysis§§ 15:609, 603

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 certain enumerated misdemeanors, including battery of a police officer, simple battery, and simple assault. Sample collection applies to juveniles.

Arrestee DNA Analysis§§ 15:609, 603, 614

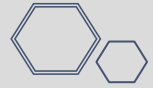
People arrested for all felonies and enumerated misdemeanors (simple battery, simple assault, etc.) must submit a DNA sample to state officials. The sample is collected at booking and is expunged upon request. Sample collection applies to juveniles.

Post Conviction DNA AnalysisCode of Criminal Procedure § 926.1 (prior to August 31, 2014), §§ 930.4, 930.8 (after August 31, 2014)

The state allows an individual convicted of a felony to apply for post-conviction DNA testing. Their application must raise articulable doubt. Effective Aug. 31, 2014, any claim for relief which was fully litigated in an appeal will not be considered. Applications must be filed within two years of conviction.

Sexual Assault Evidence and Backlogs§ 15:556

State standards require training for sexual assault examiners, set protocols for sexual assault evidence submission by law enforcement and set standards for sexual assault evidence collection.



Remote Testimony by Laboratory Analysts § 15:502

The state allows testimony by simultaneous transmission through audiovisual equipment for the following individuals: employees of criminalistics laboratories, coroners, forensic pathologists, and other scientists.
