

MASSACHUSETTS



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 Ch. 22E

The state administers its forensic services through the Massachusetts Department of State Police.

State Oversight of Forensic Services Ch. 6 § 184A

The state's Forensic Sciences Advisory Board is responsible for state oversight of forensic services. The board's primary purpose is to advise on administration and delivery of forensic services. The board is required to meet at least quarterly.

Convicted Offender DNA Analysis Ch. 22E § 3

People convicted of any felony must submit a DNA sample to state officials. Sample collection applies to juveniles.

Post Conviction DNA Analysis Ch. 278A §§ 2 through 18

The state allows any incarcerated individual to apply for post-conviction DNA testing. Their application must show by a preponderance of evidence that the test results will be material to identification. Massachusetts code has specifications for the preservation of biological evidence.

Sexual Assault Evidence and Backlogs Ch. 41 § 97B

State standards require training for sexual assault examiners, evidence submission protocols for law enforcement and communication standards for law enforcement with victims.