

PENNSYLVANIA



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.....Title 44 §§ 2311 through 2323

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

Convicted Offender DNA Analysis.....Title 44 §§ 2316, 2303

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

Post Conviction DNA Analysis.....Title 42 § 9543.1

The state allows an individual convicted of a criminal offense and serving a term of imprisonment to apply for post-conviction DNA testing. Their application must show actual innocence.

Sexual Assault Evidence and Backlogs.....§ 10172.3

State standards require training for sexual assault examiners and set protocols for sexual assault evidence collection.

Eyewitness Identification Procedures.....SR 381 (2006)

The state established the Advisory Committee on Wrongful Convictions in 2006. The Committee released a [report](#) in September 2011 that included best practice recommendations for eyewitness identifications.
