

RHODE ISLAND



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 §§12-1.2-2 through 700

The state administers its forensic services through the University of Rhode Island, which operates independently of any law enforcement or prosecutorial agency.

State Oversight of Forensic Services §§ 11-1.1-1 through 11

The state's Crime Laboratory Commission is responsible for state oversight of forensic services. The primary purpose of the commission is to examine the functions, operations, and procedures of crime labs. The commission is required to make an annual report and meet at least four times each year.

Convicted Offender DNA Analysis § 12-1.5-8

People convicted of any felony must submit a DNA sample to state officials.

Post Conviction DNA Analysis §§ 10-9.1-11, 12

The state allows an individual convicted of any crime or violation of law and serving a term of imprisonment to apply for post-conviction DNA testing. Their application must raise a reasonable probability the results of the test would have resulted in non-conviction. Rhode Island code has specifications for the preservation of biological evidence.

Eyewitness Identification Procedures § 12-1-16

The legislature created a task force to recommend policies and procedures to improve the accuracy of eyewitness identifications. The task force released its [final report](#) in December 2010.