

WASHINGTON



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 §§ 43.43.670, .753

The state administers its forensic services through the Washington State Patrol Bureau of Forensic Laboratory Services.

State Oversight of Forensic Services §§ 43.103.010 through 901

The state's Forensic Investigations Council is responsible for oversight of forensic services. The primary purpose of the council is to oversee, control the operation of and establish policies for the bureau of forensic laboratory services. The council designates its own meeting requirements.

Convicted Offender DNA Analysis § 43.43.754

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 § 10.73.170

The state allows an individual convicted of a felony and serving a term of imprisonment to apply for post-conviction DNA testing. Their application must assert likelihood the test will demonstrate innocence. Washington code has specifications for the preservation of biological evidence.
