

Finally, Asplen said there are grant funds available for those states looking to expand the use of DNA technology.

“For the last eight to 10 years there has been money out of the federal government from something called the Debbie Smith Act, and that’s about \$150 million a year for various and sundry applications for DNA,” he said.

Beyond these suggestions, Siegel and Narveson argue that implementing arrestees into a DNA database ultimately saves states money.

“Two types of cost savings arise from the expanded use of forensic DNA, those from reducing the average cost to process a crime and those from reducing the number of crimes that must be processed,” the report states.

Siegel and Narveson estimate the average cost of a crime in Indiana, when factoring in all the pieces of the criminal justice system, is about \$1,800. The report calculates a variety of figures, including the potential annual DNA convictions with expanded arrestee databasing as well as an average number of preventable crimes based on National Institute of Justice and United Kingdom reports.

“Savings, even at the low end of the prediction range, are significant,” the report said. “At experience levels comparable to the U.K., the analysis yields a potential direct savings of well over \$50 million per year.”

It’s possible not all of these solutions will work for Kentucky or that the savings wouldn’t be as significant as those shown as possible for Indiana, but the important thing is to explore the options with an open mind, Asplen said.

“I know I talk a lot of pie in the sky for many jurisdictions, but I have a very strong belief that you have to have a vision of where you want to go,” Asplen said. “You don’t not talk about it just because people are having a hard time seeing it. That’s why you have to do it. I get a lot of people telling me that I don’t live in the real world and I don’t really know how it is. I was a district attorney for six years and an assistant United States attorney for four years. So, I know exactly how it works.”

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# Important Federal DNA Legislation

— from DNA.gov

## DNA Identification Act

Modifies the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 by inserting provisions regulating funding of DNA analysis laboratories and authorizing the collection of an index of DNA records and samples, all of which are designed to enhance quality assurance.

**Full text:** <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d103:HR03355;|TOM:/bss/d103query.html>

## Crime Information Technology Act

Provides for the improvement of interstate criminal justice identification, information, communications and forensics. CITA allowed for grants for programs relating to the identification and analysis of DNA.

**Full text:** <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:S.2022.ENR>

## DNA Backlog Elimination Act

Makes grants to states for carrying out DNA analyses for use in the Combined DNA Index System of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide for the collection and analysis of DNA samples from certain violent and sexual offenders for use in such system, and for other

purposes including “to carry out, for inclusion in such Combined DNA Index System, DNA analyses of samples from crime scenes.”

**Full text:** <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d106:HR04640;|TOM:/bss/d106query.html>  
United States Code: [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse\\_usc&docid=Cite:+42USC14135a](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+42USC14135a)

## Justice for All Act

Establishes enforceable rights for victims of crimes; enhances DNA collection and analysis efforts; provides for post-conviction DNA testing and authorizes grants to improve the quality of representation in state capital cases.

**Full text:** <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c108:H.5107:#>  
House report: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/R?cp108:FLD010:@1%28hr711%29>

## DNA Fingerprint Act

Establishes an opt-out system for expunging DNA profiles from the national index and to authorize collection of DNA samples from persons arrested or detained under federal authority.

**Full text:** [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109\\_cong\\_public\\_laws&docid=f:publ162.109](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ162.109) ■

## Be Prepared: What to expect from victims

**W**hen the Kentucky State Police forensic lab returns a hit on a cold case that suddenly reopens a long-dormant investigation, don’t take for granted that the case’s victims will be as happy to hear the investigation has heated back up.

Some victims will be thrilled to hear that the offender is within grasp. However, those who either suffered from the crime or are perhaps the survivors left behind after a homicide all deal with the effects of these crimes in very different ways. The National Center for Victims of Crime identified just a few ways victims might react, such as:

- Re-experience many of the same emotions that occurred at the time of the crime.
- Be angry or feel as if they are being unjustly burdened.
- Feel numb, overwhelmed, or as if they are in shock.
- Suffer anxiety, fear, grief and powerlessness.
- Feel as though their world is coming apart again.

Victims may have these feelings throughout the course of the reopened case. The NCVIC recommends meeting the victims in person to break the news and having patience as they cope with the situation. For details on how you can best help victims of crime in these cases, visit [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org) or call (800) 211-7996. ■